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TELANGANA ASSEMBLY POLL

BRS announces list of candidates for 115 seats

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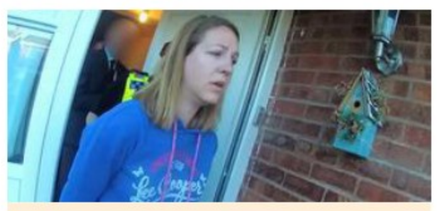
IN KERALA

189 tribal colonies lack access to Internet

SOUTH » PAGE 7



LUCY LETBY CASE

British nurse gets lifer for killing 7 newborns

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A test for India's multipolarity rhetoric

It faces a geopolitical predicament

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DREAM RUN

Pragg stuns Caruana, meets Carlsen in final

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No Governor's assent; Manipur Assembly session a non-starter

Raj Bhavan did not issue notification to convene the Assembly on Monday, though the State Cabinet had recommended holding a Special Session to Governor Anusuiya Uikey; Congress says constitutional machinery has broken down in State

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The 60-member Manipur Assembly failed to hold a Special Session on Monday to discuss the ethnic violence in the State as the Raj Bhavan did not issue a notification to convene it despite a recommendation from the State Cabinet.

An official statement on August 4 said the Cabinet had recommended to Governor Anusuiya Uikey the summoning of the fourth session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on August 21. This followed a similar request from the government on July 27.

Paramilitary personnel stand guard outside the Raj Bhavan during a protest demanding convening of the Manipur Assembly. ANI

"The Special Session could not be held as we did not receive the requisite notification from the Governor," a senior official said, declining to be quoted. Such notification is required to be issued 15 days ahead of a session. The previous session of the Assembly was adjourned *sine die* in March, more than a month before the clashes started on May 3.

The next session has to be held before September 2. Article 174 of the Constitution says: "The House or Houses of the Legislature of the State shall be summoned to meet twice at least in every year, and six months shall not intervene between their last sitting in one session and the date appointed for their first sitting in the next session."

Former Manipur Chief Minister and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh said the failure of the House to sit for the Monsoon Session pointed to a constitutional crisis.

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DEEP IN DISARRAY
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SC panel seeks reconstruction of lost documents

NEW DELHI
A Supreme Court-appointed committee chaired by former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Justice Gita Mittal has sought the reconstruction of essential documents lost or destroyed in Manipur during the violence. » PAGE 10

SC to constitute a new Bench to hear Cauvery water issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu said the release of water was a dire necessity to meet the demands of the standing crops

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday assured Tamil Nadu that he would constitute a Bench to hear the State's plea for the release of its allotment of Cauvery river water for August. Lawyers of the State told *The Hindu* that the Bench had not been formed yet, and it might be done on Tuesday.

Appearing before the Bench headed by the Chief Justice, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and Additional Advocate-General Amit Anand Tiwari said the plea was urgent.

"This is an urgent plea for release of Cauvery water for August as per the Cauvery Water Management Authority order... Your Lordships have to constitute a Bench," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

"Today itself I will constitute a Bench," Chief Justice Chandrachud responded. Mr. Rohatgi urged the Chief Justice to list the case at the earliest.

Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Karnataka to release 24,000 cusecs of Cauvery water forthwith from its reservoirs at Billigundulu for the remaining period of the month, starting from August 14.

The State said the release of water was a dire necessity to meet the pressing demands of the standing crops.

Tamil Nadu has urged the court to direct Karnataka to ensure the stipulated releases for September (36.76 tmcft) under the Cauvery Tribunal award as modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.

The State said Karnataka should make good the shortfall of 28.849 tmcft of water during the current irrigation year for the period between June 1 to July 31.

T.N. asked the court to direct Cauvery Water Management Authority to ensure that the directions issued to Karnataka to release water were "fully implemented and the stipulated monthly releases during the remaining period of the current water year are fully given effect to by the State of Karnataka". It said Karnataka had to ensure to make good the deficit in water supply from Billigundulu as on August 9.

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NEARBY

Panel to be set up within a week to frame SEP

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has decided to constitute a committee of experts to formulate the State Education Policy (SEP) within a week.
"The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) was formulated without taking the State governments into confidence. Education policy cannot be centrally imposed.
A uniform education system cannot be imposed on a multi-cultured country.
Therefore, we have decided to withdraw NEP," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.
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Victoria Hospital now has a clinic for chronic pain

BENGALURU
State-run Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru, affiliated to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), now runs a clinic to cater to patients with acute and chronic pain, such as cancer pain, musculoskeletal pain, spine-related pain and joint pain. » Page 2

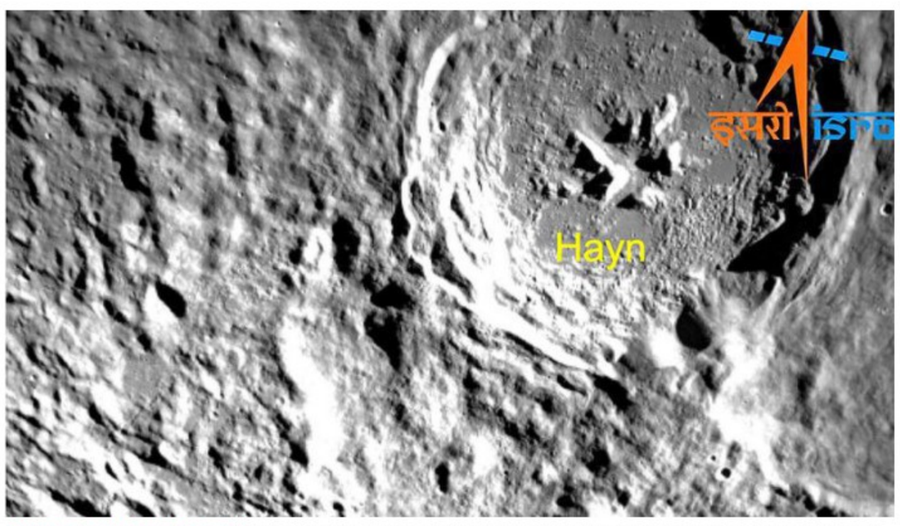
Ahead of big day, Chandrayaan-3 reveals the dark side of the moon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the scheduled landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander on the moon on Wednesday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday released images of the far side of the lunar surface.

The far side is also known as the dark side of the moon as it is always hidden from earth. The images were captured on August 19 by the Lander Hazard Detection and Avoidance Camera (LHDAC) onboard the lander. "This camera that assists in locating a safe landing area – without boulders or deep trenches – during the descent is developed by ISRO at SAC," the space agency posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Russia's Luna-25, which crashed into the moon on Sunday, had sent images of the far side of the moon.



Journey to the unknown: An image of the far side of the moon clicked on Saturday by Chandrayaan-3. The photo marks Hayn, a lunar impact crater next to the 'northeast limb' of the moon. PTI/ISRO

The ISRO has already released three videos of the moon captured by Chandrayaan-3. While one of them was taken by the Lander Position Detection Camera (LPDC) on August 15, another was taken by the Lander Imager (LI) Camera-1 just after the separation of the lander module from the propulsion module on August 17. On August 6, it shared the first video of the moon as viewed by Chandrayaan-3 during the Lunar Orbit Insertion on August 5.

RELATED REPORT
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International flights to shift to KIA's T2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All international flight operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will be shifted to Terminal 2 (T2) from August 31. Currently, they are confined to Terminal 1 (T1).

"We are happy to announce that commencing 10:45 am on August 31, 2023, all scheduled International flights will arrive and depart from Terminal 2 #BLRAirport," the operator BIAL posted on its official X handle on Monday.

Singapore Airlines SQ 508 will be the first flight to land at KIA after international flight operations shift to T2 on August 31. It is scheduled to depart from Changi International Airport at 8.50 a.m. and land at KIA at 10.55 a.m.

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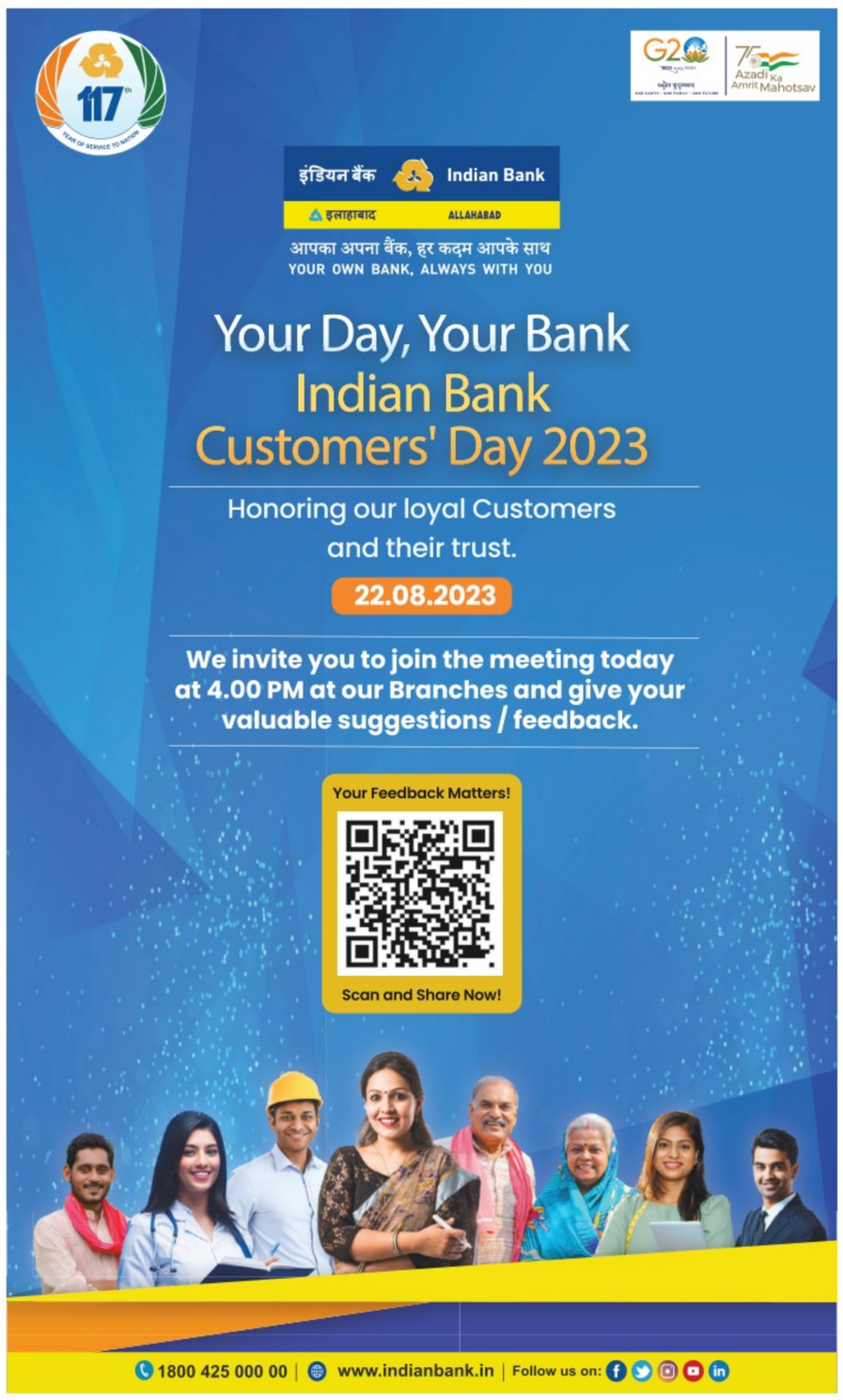
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CJI asks govt. if it intends to dictate use of judicial review

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday said some parts of a draft standard operating procedure (SOP) prepared by the Centre to tailor judicial conduct in government-related cases read as if the Centre wanted to dictate the exercise of judicial review. "I have gone through your draft SOP... There are some points which actually say how judicial review should be exercised," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

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From daily wager to medical student

33-year-old Odisha tribal labourer had done it all, even migrating to Kerala for work, for 15 years before he cracked NEET; Krushnachandra Ataka will join a Kalahandi medical college in a week

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Krushnachandra Ataka, a 33-year-old agricultural labourer from the Kondh tribe, is in an unusual hurry, inspecting any sign of disease in maturing paddy plants across a sprawling field at Thuapadi village in Bissamkataka block of Rayagada district in Odisha. The urgency is not only to ensure a good yield, but also to write a new chapter in his life.

Mr. Ataka, who returned to studies after a gap of 15 years (13 years as an agricultural labourer and two as a migrant labourer), has cracked the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges, and is all set to join Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital, Bhawanipatna, in Kalahandi district in a week's time.

Fruits of labour: Krushnachandra Ataka, a labourer from Rayagada district in Odisha, is set to pursue an MBBS degree. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Born to parents who have only one acre of unproductive agricultural land to feed five children of which he is the oldest, he passed his Class 10 exams securing 58% in 2006.

He would not have enrolled in Khallikote Junior College, Berhampur, for higher secondary classes after that had a non-governmental organisation not come forward to take care of his boarding and college fees.

"At a time when my parents were struggling to make ends meet, my studies became less of a priority," he recalls.

CONTINUED ON
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A tale of Spanish resurgence and overwhelming emotion

Spain's success dwindled after the men won the 2010 World Cup, until now, with signs of glory showing again; the 2023 edition had the incredible highs and heartbreaking lows — with fans showing up in unprecedented numbers to back the women, and institutional sexism rearing its ugly head once again

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

Be it Colombia's teenaged, cancer-survivor and ray of hope Linda Caicedo, Spain's 19-year-old impact player Salma Paralluelo, co-host New Zealand's first taste of victory or Morocco's dream run, the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup was a tale of overwhelming emotions.

Spain's success marked its re-emergence on the world map; a school of play which gave the world the tiki-taka en route the 2010 men's World Cup triumph. However, the nation has faltered since, managing to win only two major trophies until this year. The Spanish men marked their return with their UEFA Nations League title last month, while their women adorned the crowning jewel on Sunday, making Spain the second country after Germany to win both men's and women's world titles.

Having a ball: Caicedo was in the thick of things for Colombia while Paralluelo was Spain's star. AP

Culer mentality

The success of *La Roja*, like that of their male counterparts in 2010, lies in their Barcelona core. Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas played a huge role on and off the field in bringing the side this far. Putellas' anterior cruciate ligament injury on the eve of 2022 Women's Euro proved disastrous for them, with the team eventually bowing out to England in the quarterfinal.

Putellas' return from injury in the tournament was subdued, something Spain recovered from, thanks to the likes of Aitana Bonmati, tournament's golden ball winner, stepping up. The Barcelona midfielder, likened to Andres Iniesta by Pep Guardiola, is having a tremendous season so far and is among the favourites for this year's Ballon d'Or. Real Madrid midfielder Teresa Abelleira, arguably the best holding midfielder in the tournament, proved to be her perfect companion as Spain's midfield terrorised opponents, forming a 'black hole' in the middle of the park from where retrieving the ball was virtually impossible.

Barcelona *Femeni* has an iron grip on the domestic competitive scene. It lost just one match and drew another on its way to clinching the domestic title this season before cruising to continental success in the Women's Champions League.

This not only gave Spain their metronome, but also handed them the perfect weapon to neutralise opponents in Paralluelo, who head coach Jorge Vilda used as a super sub especially in the business end of the tournament. She came on for Puttellas against Norway in the semifinal to give La Roja the lead and was adjudged player of the match.

Coach Vilda admitted the plan was to use Putellas to wear out the opponents and then unleash Paralluelo's raw pace and intensity, a tactic that paid off well, earning her a spot in the starting XI in the final.

Lionesses' share

Finalists England have no reason to be disappointed as their heroics have given fans hope that football is getting closer and closer to 'home'. Sarina Wiegman's stint as coach has been nothing short of a dream.

The Dutchwoman ended England's 56-year wait for a major trophy when she led the Lionesses to glory in the 2022 European Championship. Managing a team with heavyweights like Lucy Bronze, Ellen White and Jill Scott and feisty youngsters like Lauren Hemp was no mean feat. Her measured and majestic presence on the sidelines and tactical genius earned her the 2022 FIFA Best women's coach award, her third after winning it in 2017 and 2020. Wiegman's skillset is so highly rated that chatter of her being considered to replace Gareth Southgate for the men's team gig when he decides to leave did the rounds ahead of the final.

Point to prove

FIFA brought in radical changes in the tournament format when it widened the playing pool from 24 to 32 countries, matching the number of teams in the men's version. This move was not without its critics, with concerns of the tournament being 'dull' or 'one-sided' and established teams racing away to victories sitting as prominent footnotes. But they could not have been any more wrong as the underdogs posed tough questions throughout the tournament. New Zealand shocked Norway and registered their first victory in a World Cup while Morocco brushed aside a thrashing at the hands of Germany to make the round of 16 ahead of the latter.

Signs of the turning tides in women's football were seen throughout the tournament. Close to 42,000 were present to watch New Zealand beat Norway, a record figure for both men's and women's football in the country. Australia's semifinal against England was watched by 75,000 in the gallery while streaming figures hit 11.5 million at one point, nearly half the country's population. Before the end of round of 16, more than 1.4 million were recorded at stadiums.

The fault lines

Spain's entire campaign was embroiled in controversy. Months before the World Cup, a player mutiny saw 15 players taking on the federation and coach Vilda for poor training and team conditions. Only three of those, including Bonmati, were present Down Under. But Putellas, Olga Carmona and Co. managed to weather the storm and take the Spanish armada to promised land.

Spain's win, which completed a world treble of sorts (U-17, U-20 and senior), was tainted by a barrage of criticism directed at Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales and his questionable behaviour with players in the team.

Before the tournament, FIFA president Gianni Infantino threatened to black out broadcasting in five major European nations which was only resolved at the 11th hour. He criticised the double standard of broadcasters offering around $1 million to $10 million for the tournament while it had gone up to $200 million for the men's tournament, however the larger conversation on getting to the bottom of that disparity never happened.

Several nations were in open dispute before and during the World Cup with their federations over pay and conditions. This ranges from runner-up England, which put aside a row over bonuses to reach the final, while Jamaica had to resort to crowdfunding to pay their bills.

FIFA's stand is that they are committed to equality, and standing up against broadcast disparity would suggest the same. But the women's winner gets around $110 million while the men's champion Argentina took home around $440 million from Qatar last year. Infantino added to his list of World Cup gaffes, saying that women should "pick the right fights" to "convince us men (about) what we have to do".

Norway's Ballon d'Or-winner Ada Hegerberg's response summed up the mood of the ecosystem to this positioning. "Working on a little presentation to convince men. Who's in?," she posted on X.

After the final, Putellas took the podium as a stage to demand for changes, especially in funding.

But at the end of the day the brave bunch, going up against institutional sexism, made the tournament a memorable affair with flared up matches throughout, and a phenomenal final.

WORLD CUP IN NUMBERS

- Matches: 64; Teams: 32; Venues: 10 (in nine host cities)
- Goals scored: 164, most for an edition
- Golden Boot: Hinata Miyazawa of Japan (five goals)
- Top scorer: Spain (18 goals)
- Youngest player: Casey Phair (South Korea), 16y 26d, youngest in history
- Winner's prize money: $4.29 million
- Total prize money: $110 million
- Highest match attendance: 75,784 for four games in Sydney
- Total attendance: 1,978,274

This festive season, the banana is not so humble as prices skyrocket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Just when the prices of tomatoes started to come down in markets, providing some relief to consumers, the price of the humble banana has now skyrocketed, breaching the ₹100 per kg-mark. With the harvest season coming to an end and festive season approaching, the demand has exceeded supply, leading to the price rise.

Merchants said that the prices are expected to go north further a few days before the Varamahalakshmi festival, which falls on August 25. Currently, at wholesale markets, the price of 1 kg of Yelakki banana is at ₹90 while at retail markets, it is being sold at ₹115-120 per kg. Similarly, the Robusta variety banana is ₹25-30 per kg at wholesale markets and retailers are selling it at around ₹50-60 per kg.

"A chain of festivals is ahead of us, and the supply has taken a hit. In the last 10 days, we have seen that the prices have climbed upwards gradually from around ₹70 to ₹85-90 now. Until the festivals are done, the prices will not come down," said Ayyub, a trader at the Binny Mill Banana Market.

On the other hand, consumers expressed their disappointment about the prices as bananas are almost like a staple fruit in most households. "While many varieties of fruits are bought only occasionally or during festivals, bananas are something we consume throughout the year, usually after a meal. This price rise has become a recurring phenomenon now every year during the festive season. Something should be done to regulate the prices in the market," said Rajeshwari S.L., a resident of Chikkalasandra.

Merchants said that it is necessary to sell bananas at this price to make up for the supply crunch, variations which happen during commute, as well as quality concerns.

"When compared to last year, arrivals to the wholesale markets have gone down by 70% this time as many now choose to do farm-to-store deliveries. As it is also the end of the banana season, only small fruits are coming to the markets. Quality is a major concern too. Whoever has good quality bananas are selling to the retail stores they have tie ups with," said K.G. Purushotham, president of Banana Fruits Merchants Association.

He added, "Bananas have to be sold at a higher rate as there will be a 10% variation in local stocks and 15-20% variation in stock that comes from other States. The variation refers to the difference in the weight of the fruit between the time it is harvested and loaded to vehicles (it will be heavier) and by the time they are ripened and sold at markets."

The old Mysuru region comprising Chamarajanagar, Kollegal, Gundlupet, T. Narasipur and Kanakpura, along with some places in Tamil Nadu are the leading suppliers of bananas to the Binny Mill Banana market currently. Guessing that some might have saved their best stock for the festival, Mr. Purushotham said that the arrivals might increase by the next week.

Government-run Victoria Hospital now has a clinic for acute and chronic pain

It will cater to patients suffering from pain related to cancer, joints, and spine, and will function from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 277 on the second floor

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Besides Victoria Hospital (in picture), such a facility is also functional in the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences in Hubballi. FILE PHOTO

State-run Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru, affiliated to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), now runs a clinic to cater to patients with acute and chronic pain, such as cancer pain, musculoskeletal pain, spine-related pain and joint pain.

While a few private hospitals have pain clinics, government facilities in Karnataka are now adopting the concept of pain management. Besides Victoria Hospital, such a facility is also functional in the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Hubballi.

Doctors said any pain that lasts for more than three months and is interfering with the person's day-to-day activities, diet and sleep pattern is chronic. Early intervention for pain management will provide relief and improve the quality of life of the patient, they said.

The pain clinic functions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 277 on the second floor in the Master Plan Building of Victoria hospital. Run by the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine at BMCRI, the pain clinic started functioning on June 17 this year.

"So far, 84 patients have availed of the services," said Satish Kumar M.N., Assistant Professor in the department.

"As many as 52 patients have undergone interventional pain relief procedures in the last two months. Depending on the condition of the patient, we administer ultrasound or fluoroscopy guided interventions and joint injections. Many patients get instant relief with these procedures. Most also require physiotherapy and medication," the doctor said.

Most of the patients so far are aged above 40.

Ramchandraiah R., Professor and Head of the Department of Anaesthesia at BMCRI, said Radiofrequency Ablation is required to manage conditions such as Trigeminal Neuralgia (facial pain), cancer pain and cluster headache, but has not yet begun at the clinic.

"We are in the process of procuring the equipment. However, we are offering interventional pain relief for all chronic conditions," the doctor said.

> As many as 52 patients have undergone interventional pain relief procedures in the last two months. Depending on the condition of the patient, we administer ultrasound or fluoroscopy guided interventions and joint injections.
>
> **SATISH KUMAR M.N.,**
> Assistant Professor at Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine at BMCRI

BMCRI Director-cum-Dean Ramesh Krishna K. said, "Although the pain clinic has been functioning since June, formal inauguration is yet to take place."

Sadasivan S. Iyer, Pain Management Consultant at Manipal Hospital (Old Airport Road), said chronic pain can be debilitating, but there is low awareness on how the pain can be managed.

"Pain is one of the most common symptoms bringing a patient to the hospital. Treating the underlying cause for the pain usually reduces the pain, but on many occasions, there may be persistent pain in spite of addressing the primary pathology. This could lead to significant morbidity leading to poor quality of life and psychosocial disturbances like anxiety and depression.

"Such patients can be best managed by an expert in pain management by using a combination of medication, minimally invasive procedures, and psychotherapy to relieve the pain and also rehabilitate them. The need for such clinics and specialists is slowly being recognised by many hospitals," the doctor said.

Zambian national arrested at KIA; 1 kg of cocaine worth ₹15 crore recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) nabbed a 40-year-old Zambian national at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and recovered 1 kg of cocaine worth ₹15 crore from him on Wednesday.

The accused was carrying the drugs concealed in a children's book, which he was holding, and waiting for luggage clearance. While analysing the profiles of the passengers, the officials on a suspicion zeroed in on the accused and kept a close watch on him. The officials noticed the accused was carrying the nursery rhymes book with him and took him into custody.

The book was heavier than usual and the officials removed the cover to find half a kilo of cocaine packed neatly on each side of the cover. The accused confessed that he was unemployed and was offered money to carry the parcel to Delhi via Bengaluru.

He was given free tickets and a boarding and lodging facility from his handler in Addis Ababa from where he boarded the flight on a tourist visa, a senior official said.

The accused was asked to take a domestic flight to Delhi from Bengaluru and was given a code to share with the person who would come to receive him at the airport before handing over the book.

The accused has been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and further investigation is on to track down others in the network, the official added.

In another incident, the officials caught a man and recovered undeclared 1,200 grams of gold chain worth ₹74 lakh which he had concealed in a pocket. The accused was caught by DRI officials as soon as he landed at KIA from Dubai. Inquiries revealed that he is from Chennai and went to Dubai to look for a job.

The officials suspect that he is a carrier and part of a gold-smuggling racket, which is being probed.

From Page One

International flights to shift to KIA's T2

However, BIAL did not specify which would be the first flight to depart from KIA after flight operations moved to T2.

The 2,55,661-sq.m. T2, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11, 2022, became operational on January 15.

At present, T2 is operating only domestic services, but from August 21 onwards, T2 will be exclusively used for international flight operations. With the shifting of all international flight operations to T2, the old terminal or T1 will cater to only domestic operations.

BBMP removes banner near KPCC office, imposes ₹50,000 fine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Monday, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took down an unauthorised banner near the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office on Queens Road and imposed a fine of ₹50,000 for the violation.

In an official statement, the BBMP said that the banner was installed in the Miller's Tank Bed Area on Queens Road, which comes under Vasanth Nagar Ward No. 93. The purpose of the banner was to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and former Karnataka Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs. "The said banner was put up without taking the permission of the BBMP so the fine was levied on the president of the KPCC," the release added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr. VADIVEL P** S/o Mr. Pazhanisami and his wife **Mrs. GOMATHI V** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. JAMIL ABDULLA KHATRI** and **Mr.SAKIL ABDULLA KHATRI** both are sons of Mr. Abdulla Abdul Gafoor Khatri ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the BDA Residential Property bearing Vacant Site No. H.N-71, PID No. 6000028985, carved out of Sy. No.94 of Hennur Village, situated at 20th Block, Arkavathi Layout, Hennur, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 12.00 Meters and North to South 09.00 Meters, in all measuring 108 Square Meters, together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by : Site bearing No. H.N.80, West by : Road, North by : Site bearing No. H.N.72, South by : Site bearing No. H.N.70.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client Mr. V. SHIVA SHANKAR, husband of (late) Smt. K.Rajeswari (present owner), had lost the original Allotment Letter dated: 12-08-1992 in transit near his residence at No.30, 6th Main, 13th A Cross, BTM II Stage, N.S.Palya, Bangalore-560 076, in respect of the schedule Property which stands in the name of original allottee Sri Anche Ramchandrappa and already lodged the complaint before the concerned Police Station authorities vide Lost report No.0691770/2023 dt: 19/08/2023 and so far he has not yet responded for the same from the public. That my client also requested the public that if anybody trace the said document, please hand over the same to him or to his said Advocate within 07 days of time and any person/s who handover the said GPA to my client or advocate will be suitably rewarded.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Site No.30, formed by BDA in Sy.No.54 of N.S.Palya, present Corporation No.30, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, N.S.Palya, 65th Division of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by	:	Site No.31
West by	:	Site No.29
North by	:	Road
Sout by	:	Site No.41

Sd/- **A.Manjunath** Advocate
No.924, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069.
Ph: 9845395528

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-TENDER NOTICE No. BE-29-2023-24-OT-14
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Automation of pumping Installations over Bengaluru Division and Electrical Arrangements for Construction of RCC OHT with GLR 1 Lakh litre capacity each and Pump House at Kuppam.	Rs. 56.11,116/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 08-09-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/313/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2023-24-OT-12
Dated. 16-08-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of an Isolator at Ranajitpura (RNJP) station of Hubballi Division.	Rs. 52,76,430/-

Last date for submission of bids :
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-09-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / TR
PUB/312/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Hubballi**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-08/175/2023-24 **Date: 21.08.2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under one cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-II & above (Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: (1) Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Gowribidanur 1st & 2nd Phase industrial Area & Chikkaballapura Industrial Area, Chikkaballapura District. (Reserved for SC), **(2)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Vemgal Industrial Area, Kolar District.(Others), (3) Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Malur 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Kolar District (Others), **(4)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Malur 3rd & 4th Phase Industrial Area, Kolar District (Reserved for SC), **(5)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Narasapura & Jakkasandra Industrial Area, Kolar District (Reserved for SC) **(6)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Jigani 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Bengaluru District (Others), **(7)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Veerasandra & Attibele Industrial Area, Bengaluru District (Others) **(8)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Hirehalli, Sathyamangala, Anthrasanahalli 1st & 2nd Phase, Kunigal 1st & 2nd Phase, Industrial Area, Tumakuru District (Others), **(9)** Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Submersible Pumpsets to the Borewell points at Sira Industrial Area, Tumakuru District (Others), **(10)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Apparel Park 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Bengaluru Rural District (Others) **(11)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Kumbalgudu 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Bengaluru Rural District (Others), **(12)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Obedanahalli Industrial Area, Doddaballapura 3rd Phase, Bengaluru Rural District. (Reserved for ST), **(13)** Re-conditioning, operation & maintenance of street lights at Harohalli 1st, 2nd, 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara District (Others), **(14)** Shifting of Existing 11kV HT line passing over existing plots at Sompura Industrial Area, 2nd Stage Dabaspete, Bengaluru District. (Others)

Last date for submission of bids is: **06.09.2023 upto 04:30 pm**

Applicants may download bidding documents from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1003/Zen/2023-24

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE SAI

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for following: -

1. SAI/NSSC/ENGG/RFP-11/2023-24 to Appoint a Management Operator to Operate and Maintain Land Parcel for setting up of Ground Based Telecommunication Tower at SAI NSSC Bangalore.

For more details please visit E-Tender website **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/sai/, https://saibengaluru.com/.**

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is 11.09.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.

Sd/-
Executive Director

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
Ist Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, At: Hyderabad.

O.A. NO.121 of 2023

Between
Canara Bank
Balanagar Branch ...APPLICANT

And

1.M/s. Srivay Infra Projects Pvt.Ltd, 2. Sri. Mandava Venkata Raghunath, 3. Smt. Vemparala Lohitha, 4. Smt. Mandava Lakshmi Nayakamma, 5. Sri. R Srikanth Reddy. ...DEFENDANTS

To,

Sri Mandava Venkata Raghunath, R/o. H.No .8-3-23 1 / w/ 42, Lakshmi Homes, Road No.2, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500045. .. **Defendant No.2**

Smt. Vemparala Lohitha, R/o. H. No.14, Ground Floor, 5th Cross, Balaji Layout, Banglore. And Also At Smt. Vemparula Lohitha, R/o. H. No.8-3-23 1/ w /42, 401, Lakshmi Homes, Road No.2, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad- 500045. ...**Defendant No.3**

Sri. R Srikanth Reddy, S/o. Sri R. P. Reddy, R/o. Flat No. 301 Block No.1, Sai Dream Castle, Nizampet Road, Sri Holystic Hospital,KPHB, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500085. . ...**Defendant No.....5**

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

Take notice that the Applicant herein has instituted the above application O.A. No. 121 of 2023 before the Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Hyderabad and the above application has been filed for the recovery of **Rs.13,68,81,282.19/- (Rupees Thirteen Crores Sixty Eight Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Two and Paisa Nineteen Only)** against the defendants together with interest and other relief s. The above named Defendant no's. 2, 3 & 5 are hereby directed to appear on 08.09.2023, at 10.30A.M., before the Debts ecovery Tribunal-II at Ist Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad, either in person or through an advocate or authorized agent to show cause as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this **the day of 28th July, 2023.**

REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II HYDERABAD

Government of Maharahstra
Public Work Department
Executive Engineer, P. W. North Division, Ratnagiri
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 43 FOR 2023-2024

Online Tenders (e-tender) In " B-1 " form for the work is invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Work North Division, Ratnagiri (Phone No. (02352) 223505 on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System, http://mahatenders.gov.in from the Approriate Contractor.

Name of Work :-

1. Beautification And Concreting To N.H. No Konkan Railway Station Sangameshwar Connecting Road Taluka Sangmeshwar District Ratnagiri. **Tender Cost Rs. 1,28,86,308/-**
2. Proposed Internal Arrangement And Development Of Mini Polyclinic For Animal Husbandary Department At Ratnagiri, Taluka And District Ratnagiri. (Internal Arrangement, Compound Wall, Road, Gutter ETC.) **Tender Cost Rs. 1,31,13,884/-**
3. Strengthening And Black Topping To Rajapur Gothane Doniwade Soundal Road M.D.R. 68 Km 0/500 To 2/00 4/00 To 6/00, 7/00 To 8/00 And 13/00 To 14/350 Taluka Rajapur District Ratnagiri. (Under Special Repairs Programme) **Tender Cost Rs. 1,00,61,169/-**

and the details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering **Portal http://mahatenders.gov.in and www.mahapwd.gov.in**

For Executive Engineer
North Ratnagiri P.W. Division
Ratnagiri.

DGIPR/2023/2024/2985

The story of how the deadliest virus to humans was revived

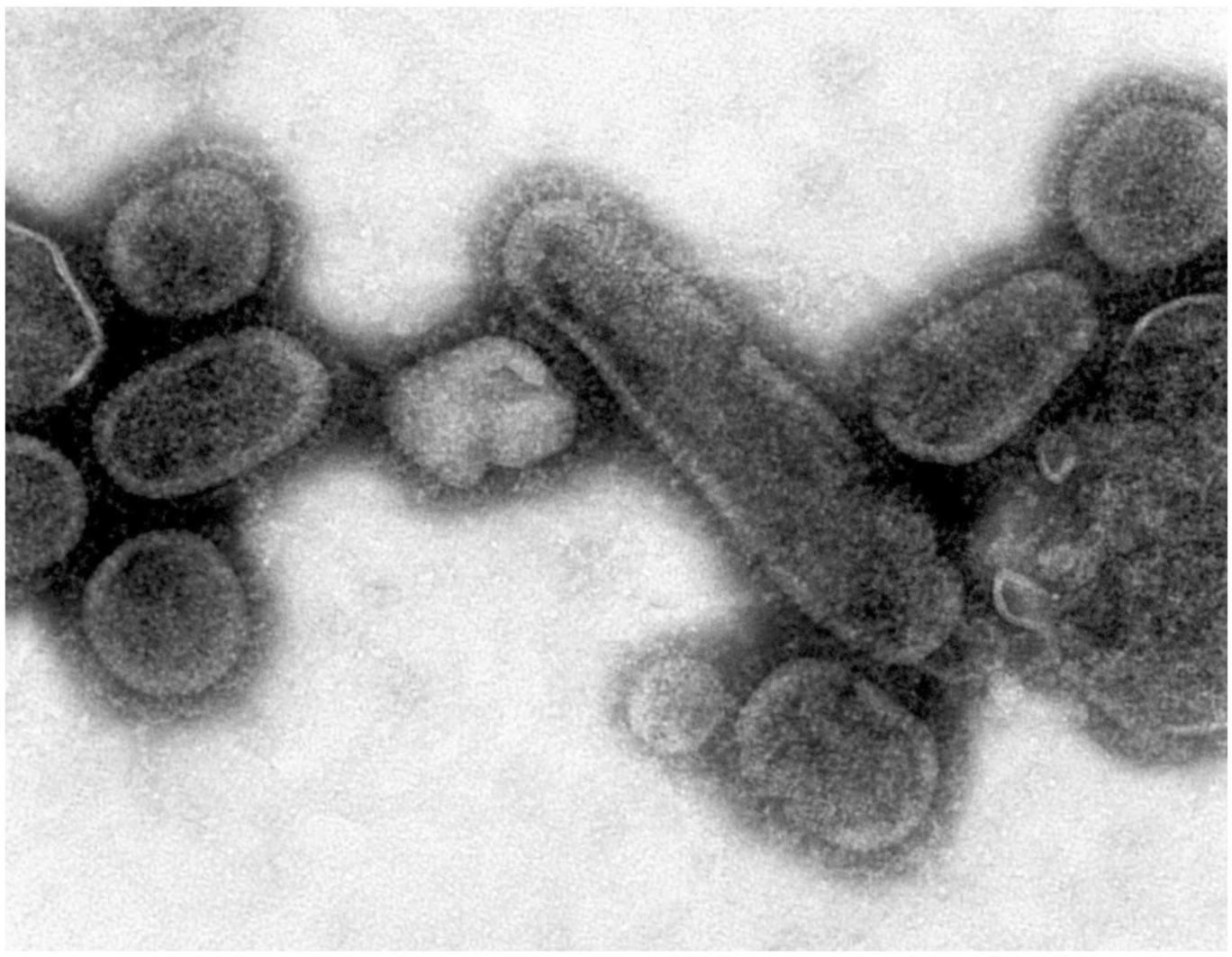
Jeffery Taubenberger wanted to understand why some flu strains caused pandemics, so he sought the genetic makeup of the virus that caused the 1918 disaster. He received help from Johan Hultin, a doctor who offered to retrieve samples from a mass grave at risk to his life

Arun Panchapakesan

This is part I of a two-part story on the virus that caused the Great Influenza epidemic. Part II will be published tomorrow.

In August 1997, the members of the village council of a small settlement in Alaska, called Brevig Mission, were faced with a peculiar request. A man named Johan Hultin wanted their permission to exhume a nearly 80-year-old mass grave. He claimed that he had done it before, 46 years earlier, and that he was back because his previous mission had failed.

The council gave him its blessing when its members heard what he was after. According to him, hidden beneath the frozen ground lay preserved the recipe to make the deadliest virus humankind had ever encountered.



A stained transmission electron micrograph showing recreated 1918 influenza virions collected from the supernatant of a 1918-infected cell culture 18 hours after infection. PUBLIC DOMAIN

A virus from scratch

Scientists routinely engineer new viruses in the laboratory. They make changes to the genetic material (DNA or RNA) of existing viruses to create new variants that may or may not exist naturally. Doing so allows scientists to compare the properties of the edited variants to their natural counterparts and infer the role of the changes that they made.

For example, if they observe that some patients have a higher viral load in their blood for a given disease, and a particular mutation is observed in the DNA of viruses isolated from those patients, they can introduce that mutation into the DNA of viruses that don't naturally harbour it, to see if it improves the viral output in the laboratory.

But while scientists can easily introduce changes to the genetic material of a virus, they can't create a virus from scratch. They have to rely on nature to do this.

So, scientists take samples from patients, make more copies of the genetic material using a technique called a polymerase chain reaction, and use it to understand the sequence of bases that makeup its genetic material. Once they have the sequence, they can tweak it.

Meet H and N

In 1995, molecular pathologist Jeffery Taubenberger, who was working on the influenza virus, was trying to understand why some strains of the virus caused pandemics while others did not. Taubenberger realised that in order to do that, he needed to know the genetic makeup of the deadliest strain of influenza that had ever infected humans: the virus responsible for the 1918 disaster.

At the time, 105 years ago today, the virus was estimated to have infected 500 million people – a third of the worlds' population then. It was notorious for its ability to cause severe disease in people aged 15-34. It has been estimated that 50 million people died as a result. (To compare, the COVID-19 pandemic is thought to have caused around 6.9 million deaths.)

Researchers designate influenza strains using the types of two genes that the virus contains, named haemagglutinin and neuraminidase, designated 'H' and 'N'. There are 18 subtypes of haemagglutinin, labelled H1-H18, and 11 types of neuraminidase, N1-N11, in nature. An influenza virus contains one of each and is classified accordingly.

For example, the 1918 epidemic was caused by the H1N1 variant; the 1957 Asian flu was caused by H2N2; and the 1968 Hong Kong flu was caused by H3N2. There exist further sub-variations of these primary classifications, where different mutations exist in the 'H' and 'N' genes and which can further modify a virus's properties. The 1918 flu and the 2009 swine flu were both caused by H1N1 – but they varied in disease severity due to the presence of changes on the H1 and N1 genes.

Taubenberger wanted the 1918 version of H1N1. But there was a problem. The virus had vanished after 1920, when the pandemic ended. While there were subsequent influenza outbreaks later in 1957, 1968, and 1977, those viruses were different and nowhere near as deadly as the 1918 strain. Taubenberger was adamant to use the worst of all influenza variants in his studies because studying that strain was imperative, he believed, to understanding influenza.

A letter from Johan Hultin

With great difficulty, he obtained the preserved lung samples of a soldier who had died of the disease in 1918, and extracted a small portion of the genetic material of the virus. However, because he was running out of starting material, Taubenberger couldn't generate the complete RNA sequence. So, together with another scientist named Ann Reid, he ended up publishing a small part of the sequence in March 1997.

A few months later, Taubenberger received a letter from a doctor named Johan Hultin, who had read his article, and offered a solution to his small sample problem. Dr. Hultin claimed that in a small ocean-side village in Alaska, called Brevig Mission, there existed a mass grave in which 72 people who had all died due to the Great Influenza epidemic in 1918 had been buried. The Alaskan permafrost would have ensured the bodies were preserved almost perfectly – along with the virus.

Dr. Hultin continued that he had visited the site in 1951 and had brought a few samples back. But due to the long return journey, the samples began to thaw, and he had to refreeze them with carbon dioxide from a fire extinguisher. But despite his best efforts, he couldn't protect them, and the multiple freeze-thaw cycles destroyed the samples.

Over a telephone call, Dr. Hultin offered to go back to Brevig Mission to retrieve more samples at his own expense. Taubenberger agreed.

Full genetic sequence

And so, in August 1997, Johan Hultin, at the age of 72, went back to Brevig Mission to finish what he set out to do as a young graduate student 46 years earlier – to get the deadly 1918 H1N1 influenza virus. The task ahead of him was fraught with the risk of him contracting the deadly virus, and almost certain death after. But neither that nor the lack of specialised equipment proved to be a deterrent for Dr. Hultin. He went ahead with his mission just the same.

The samples he brought back allowed Taubenberger and Reid to determine the virus's full genetic sequence. The sequence allowed other scientists to unearth insights into the virus's beginnings. It appeared to have an ancestor that was avian in origin. But there were also tell-tale signs that the virus had adapted, by evolving, to infect mammals.

> The virus was estimated to have infected 500 million people. It was notorious for its ability to cause severe disease in people aged 15-34. It has been estimated that 50 million people died as a result

In other words, the ancestral virus that infected birds had switched to infecting humans or swine. It had also been circulating for a few years, getting better at its job, before it vanished. Sometime later, it reemerged as one of the deadliest pathogens ever to afflict humankind.

But for all these remarkable insights, the virus's genetic sequence revealed nothing dramatic about the virus itself. It failed to explain how it could infect people so quickly or why it killed millions. There were minor variations in the genetic material but this is to be expected for RNA viruses. There remained but one way to answer that question: to recreate the virus itself.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaithonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.)

Flooded farms and homes near Tazhao village, following heavy rainfall in Zhuozhou, Hebei province, China, August 1, 2023. REUTERS

Despite extreme weather, China skips climate talk

Reuters

Record heat and historic floods in China this summer have failed to ignite domestic public debate about how the world's top carbon polluter can mitigate climate change, leaving campaigners frustrated at an opportunity missed.

While state media and officials have said that climate change makes China more vulnerable to extreme weather, few have made the connection this year, and have been even more reluctant to link it to China's own emissions - now around a third of the global total and rising.

"I actually see that as a big missed opportunity, actually, for the Chinese government to garner enough social support for its climate agenda," Li Shuo, senior adviser with Greenpeace in Beijing, said.

There was no major spike in searches for 'climate change' in recent weeks on the Weibo microblog platform or the search engine Baidu, according to their official indices.

A crackdown on civil society under President Xi has made grassroots climate change unlikely, forcing activists to try and influence an increasingly centralised leadership

This is despite widespread discussion about severe weather, in which at least 33 people died in Beijing alone. Several residents in Beijing and flooded areas in surrounding Hebei province said that they were aware of changing climate trends, but were reluctant to say more.

Chinese government spokespeople have long defended China's record on climate change and press freedom.

In economically developed countries, governments, seeking to be re-elected, have lowered climate ambitions after backlash from those resistant to the lifestyle changes needed to curb emissions.

China is in principle well-placed to impose top-down, state-led campaigns that support government policy that could make it a climate action leader.

But Fang Kecheng, from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said climate messaging was used differently.

"Like many other issues in China, climate change basically is used as an issue by media to glorify the state and the supreme leader and also to attack the U.S. and other western countries," he said.

Communications professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Pan Zhongdang, said part of the issue was fear of what could be unleashed by freedom of expression.

A crackdown on NGOs and civil society under President Xi Jinping has made grassroots climate change unlikely, forcing campaigners to try instead to influence an increasingly centralised leadership.

China has set some bold green targets, including a pledge to make the country carbon neutral by 2060, but experts want Beijing to act faster and worry that failure to engage the people could slow the transition.

China's CO_2 emissions grew 10% in the first quarter of 2023 from a year earlier, rising by about 1% above record levels in 2021, according to research published on August 17.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Twilight time – the world between worlds

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Twilight is the light visible above the horizon when the sun is below the horizon. It is civil twilight when the sun is 6° below the horizon; X twilight when 12° below; and astronomical twilight when 18° below. Name X.

QUESTION 2

At astronomical twilight in the evening, Y becomes visible in the sky, and at astronomical twilight in the morning, Y becomes invisible. What is Y?

QUESTIONS 3

An *asura* in Hindu mythology was slain by one of the avatars of Lord Vishnu at twilight because he had a boon that he couldn't be slain at day or night. Name the *asura*.

QUESTIONS 4

When the sun is setting behind you, the shadow that earth's atmosphere casts will be in front of you, near the horizon. At civil twilight, this shadow has a faint pink border. It is sunlight diffracted in earth's atmosphere. What is this pink belt called?

QUESTIONS 5

During X (in Q1), the sunlight remaining in earth's atmosphere has a deep blue shade – the result of ozone molecules absorbing light of other frequencies. The absorption is weak, so its effects are pronounced when light has to travel longer through the atmosphere, which happens at twilight. What effect is the absorption called?

Answers to August 17 quiz:

1. Name of aurora that occurs near the southernmost latitudes – **Ans: Aurora australis**
2. Events that can move aurorae to earth's lower latitudes – **Ans: Geomagnetic storm**
3. Expansion of 'K' in the K-index – **Ans: Kennziffer**
4. Moon that has a significant influence on Jupiter's aurorae – **Ans: Io**
5. Danish astronomer whom Walter Bryant wrote in a 1920 book – **Ans: Tycho Brahe**

Visual: **Nitrogen**

First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Anwesha Majhi | Nuzla Sayed | Prashant Kalbender | Swadhin Ranjan Patra

Visual: The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), seen here in the U.S. on March 21, 2018, is most active at twilight. What is the adjective that describes such animals? AMOS OLIVER DOYLE (CC BY-SA 4.0)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Transport and postal departments tie up for swift delivery of DLs and RCs

Initiative will encompass 67 RTOs across State and Department of Posts will use Speed Post to deliver driving licences and registration certificates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Transport Department has partnered with the Karnataka Postal Circle to provide expedited delivery services for documents such as driving licence (DL) and registration certificate (RC) using speed post. Recently, the two departments entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide services within the 'Book Now Pay Later' framework.

According to officials from the Transport Department, this initiative will encompass 67 Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across the State. The delivery of DLs and RCs within this scheme will be facilitated by the Postal Department through Speed Post.

A official from the Transport Department said, "The postal department will gather the RCs and DLs directly from the premises of the 67 RTOs. The reservation process will be channelled through a centralised speed post account that has been established at these 67 RTOs. Once the DLs or RCs have been taken for the doorstep delivery, people can track the delivery progress via the postal portal."

A file photo of the driving licence test track at the Jnanabharati Regional Transport Office. The Transport Department will set up automated and computerised driving testing tracks at 12 more RTOs across Karnataka.

Every month, the Transport Department intends to issue 5 lakh smart cards from these 67 RTOs, all slated for convenient doorstep delivery via the Postal Department.

Meanwhile, the Transport Department is poised to broaden the scope of automated and computerised driving testing tracks in key RTOs across the State.

This expansion aims to enhance the process of conducting driving licence tests by integrating advanced technology into the testing process, according to officials. "The electronic driving test track system is notably more adept at evaluating drivers' capabilities, and we will be extending the automated and computerised driving testing tracks to 12 RTOs across the State," an official said.

The 12 RTOs which will soon have automated/computerised driving testing tracks include Bengaluru East (Kasturinagar), Yelahanka, Tumakuru, Sirsi, Sakleshpur, KGF, Chintamani, Sagar, Gokak, Ranebennur, Dandeli, and Bhalki.

Currently, Karnataka hosts seven RTOs with automated driving test tracks, which are in Jnanabharathi, Electronics City, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Shivamogga, and Hassan.

Work is currently under way to establish automated driving testing tracks in Mangaluru, Belagavi, and Raichur. Additionally, preparations are in the tender stage for the implementation of such tracks in Bagalkot, Haveri, Chikkodi, Jamkhandi, Athani, Devanahalli, Kolar, Davangere, Gadag, Hospet, Ballari, Vijayapura, Bidar, and Yadgir.

Fake letter: Official and his assistant arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department officials on Monday arrested the Assistant Director of the Agriculture Department in K.R. Pete and his assistant on the charge of sending a fake letter to the Governor, with forged signatures of officials, accusing Agriculture Minister N. Chaluvaraya Swamy of corruption.

The accused, Guruprasad, and his assistant, Sudarshan, reportedly stole the letterhead from the Mandya office and forged the signatures of officials of seven taluks with a complaint that the Minister was demanding money from officials.

The government ordered a CID inquiry into the incident. The CID officials found that the letter was mailed from a post office in Saraswathipuram in Mysuru.

A team of officials found that the CCTV camera was not working. However they checked the footage from in and around the area before zeroing in on the accused.

The duo was produced in court and taken into custody for three days. The investigation will try to find the reason behind writing the letter and whether there are more people involved or whether there was any pressure from anyone, a police officer said.

However, former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who led the charge against the Minister in the case, said the CID probe had revealed that the letter was indeed written by officials of the Agriculture Department, indicating the charges were indeed true.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 22	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:37
RISE 10:33	SET 22:26
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:36
RISE 11:24	SET 23:09
THURSDAY, AUG. 24	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:36
RISE 12:19	SET 23:57

THE HINDU
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NICE Road is infructuous and govt. should take over project: TBJ

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the construction of the Bengaluru-Mysure Expressway, the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP) – promoted by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) – has become infructuous, said former Minister and MLA T.B. Jayachandra. He suggested that the State government take over the BMICP.

A 392-page report prepared and submitted to the State government in December 2016 by a legislature panel, headed by Mr. Jayachandra, had indicted the NICE for violation of the framework agreement (FWA), excess land acquisition, levying toll without laying a concrete road, and illegal mining, among other issues. Mr. Jayachandra, now the State government's Special Representative in Delhi, suggested that the government implement the recommendations to provide justice to farmers who had lost their land for the project.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Monday, Mr. Jayachandra said, "The Siddaramaiah-led government has the responsibility of implementing the report and take over the project in the interest of the State exchequer, and the development of Bengaluru."

Mr. Jayachandra, who met agitating farmers at Bidadi during the Budget session of the State legislature, said, "There is no necessity for another road project between Bengaluru and Mysuru, as the Centre and the State have developed a eight-lane highway."

Noting the options before the government are limited, he said, "The matter should go back to the Cabinet. Ultimately, the Cabinet has to make a decision." The House Committee, which studied the project in 2016, had recommended a probe by national agencies or investigative agencies of equal standing, into the alleged widespread irregularities in execution of the multi-crore private infrastructure project.

Mr. Jayachandra's statement assumes significance in the wake of former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy announcing that he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek a probe by the CBI into the alleged scam.

The House panel had, among other things, recommended withdrawal of 11,060 acres of both private (7,532 acres) and government land (3,528 acres) earmarked for the project, stoppage in toll collection on NICE Road, and recovery of royalty of ₹242.45 crore for alleged illegal mining activities on 242 acres acquired for BMICP.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 22, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- The debate over India's smartphone manufacturing dreams **bit.ly/indiasmartphone**
- The story of how the deadliest virus to humans was revived **bit.ly/virusrevival**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

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Internal probe into fire causes resentment among BBMP ranks

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

An Internal Technical Enquiry (ITE) ordered by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath is allegedly causing resentment among the ranks in the civic body.

The enquiry, headed by BBMP Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure) B.S. Prahlad, was ordered to probe a fire accident at the Quality Control Laboratory and Office (QCL&O) on August 11. The probe team, led by Mr. Prahlad, visited the site on August 16 to gather details in an effort to determine the cause of the fire.

Halasuru Gate police booked two assistant executive engineers and a Group D worker, and questioned them.

Sources in the BBMP said many are upset with the probe as a police complaint filed by the BBMP targets low-rank officials while there is no mention of senior officials. The complaint was filed by Mr. Prahlad.

Technically, the QCL&O comes under Mr. Prahlad, as the tests in the lab pertain to road quality.

According to one BBMP official, "Being a chief engineer, he should be made responsible for the fire, and he had no authority to file a complaint."

Another BBMP source said the chief engineer of QCL&O, who was injured, was kept out of the FIR, which is another cause for resentment.

At the same time, one of the persons booked in the case was not even present at the spot.

Swamy, Assistant Executive Engineer who was booked in the case, told *The Hindu*, "When I was not present at the spot, how can I be made responsible for the fire? I was summoned by the police multiple times, and I am suffering for no fault of mine."

On the other hand, a few days back, a document was leaked to mediapersons. The leaked document was an inspection report written in 2022 by the Superintendent Engineer (QCL&O) in which he had sought separate space for officials of the department and additional staff.

'Violation' of approved plan: Actor asked to reply to dept. notice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court on Monday asked Kannada actor Ganesh to reply within a week to the notice by the Forest Department asking him to stop construction work on his land coming under the eco-sensitive zone of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

Also, the court directed the Forest Department to decide within four weeks from the date of receipt of reply from Mr. Ganesh on the notice, issued to him on August 14, asking him to stop works on building a farm house on his land, measuring about one acre and 24 guntas at Jakkalli, Hanagala hobli, Gundlupet taluk, Chamarajanagar district. The actor had purchased the land in 2022.

Meanwhile, the court directed the forest authorities to not take any coercive action till completion of the proceedings though it declined to grant stay on further proceedings based on the notice issued to him. Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while disposing of a petition by Mr. Ganesh.

The notice was issued based on media reports on alleged violation in construction and an inspection carried out by officials to verify the allegation of permanent structures being put up in violation of the permission, granted by the monitoring committee in March 2023 to construct temporary residential building on the land and to put up fencing all around the land.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

For the issue dated August 22, we have an interview with the leading tiger expert, Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, who discusses his skepticism about current tiger conservation strategies, the complexities of human-animal conflict, and why the cheetah project was doomed from the start.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of corruption cases probed by CBI pending trial in courts

6,841 Over 2,000 cases were pending trials for more than 10 years as on December 31, 2022, according to the latest annual report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). PTI

The members added on a net basis by EPFO in the month of June

17.89 in lakh. The Ministry of Labour Data said that 3,491 establishments have extended social security coverage of provident funds to their employees. PTI

The average age in Kharge's Congress Working Committee

61 The Congress has failed to fulfil its promise of having 50% of people below the age of 50 years but has given 66.6% reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and women as promised during its Raipur session. PTI

Fine imposed on an American firm by the Chinese government

1.5 in $ million. The Mintz Group has been fined by China's government in a crackdown on information-gathering. Xi's government has tightened control by launching data security crackdowns. AP

The worth of the weapons given by the U.S. to Ukraine till now

42.8 in euro billion. Kyiv's next biggest military backers are Germany with 7.5 billion euros and the United Kingdom with 6.6 billion. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On smartphone manufacturing in India

Why have the former Reserve Bank of India governor and the Minister of State for Electronics been at loggerheads with each other? What are the key features of the production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme? Why are low-level assembly jobs not good in the long-run?

EXPLAINER

Anuj Srivas

The story so far:
Over the last few months, former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and the Minister of State for Electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar have sparred over how well a Central government scheme to boost electronics manufacturing has been faring.

What happened?
It started when Mr. Rajan, along with two other economists, released a brief discussion paper arguing that the programme isn't really pushing India towards becoming a self-sufficient manufacturing powerhouse. Instead, the government is using taxpayer money to create an ecosystem of low-level assembly jobs that will still depend heavily on imports. The junior IT Minister responded sharply, calling the paper a concoction of "half-truths" built on "shoddy comparisons".

Heated debate: A view of Foxconn's Sriperumbudur plant in the Kancheepuram district. FILE PHOTO

What is the PLI scheme?
Around five years ago, the Government of India decided it wanted more companies to make things in India. Manufacturing is a key ingredient to economic growth and also comes with what economists call a multiplier effect – every job created and every rupee invested in manufacturing has a positive cascading effect on other sectors in the economy.

However, the problem was that many industries didn't want to set up shop in the country. India's infrastructure isn't great, the country's labour laws are archaic, and the workforce isn't very skilled. To solve this, the government used, and uses, a carrot-and-stick approach. The 'stick' is raising import duties, thus making it more expensive for companies to import stuff from somewhere else and sell it in India. The 'carrot' is to provide subsidies and incentives. One key set of incentives is the production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme. Here, the government gives money to foreign or domestic companies that manufacture goods here. The annual payout is based on a percentage of revenue generated for up to five years.

The industry that has shown the most enthusiasm for the scheme is smartphone manufacturing. Companies like Micromax, Samsung, and Foxconn (which makes phones for Apple) can get up to 6% of their incremental sales income through the PLI programme. And with the scheme, mobile phone exports jumped from $300 million in FY2018 to an astounding $11 billion in FY23. And while India imported mobile phones worth $3.6 billion in FY2018, it dropped to $1.6 billion in FY23. Central government Ministers, including Mr. Chandrasekhar, have regularly cited this data as proof of the PLI's scheme's success.

What is Mr. Rajan arguing?
In his paper, the former Central bank governor argued that the export boom hides more than it reveals. Specifically, Mr. Rajan contended that while imports of fully put-together mobile phones have come down, the imports of mobile phone components – including display screens, cameras, batteries, printed circuit boards – shot up between FY21 and FY23. Incidentally, these are the same two years when mobile phone exports jumped the most. This matters because manufacturers aren't really making mobile phones in India in the traditional sense. That would involve their supply chain also moving to India and making most of the components here as well. All that the companies are doing, Mr. Rajan said, is importing all of the necessary parts and assembling them in India to create a 'Made in India' product.

This is important as low-level assembly work doesn't produce well-paying jobs and doesn't nearly have anywhere the same multiplier effect that actual manufacturing might provide.

What is the Minister saying?
Mr. Chandrasekhar's argument is two-fold. First, he said, Mr. Rajan wrongly assumed that all imports of screens, batteries, etc. are used to make mobile phones. It is possible these items are used also for computer monitors, DSLR cameras, electric vehicles etc. He also argued that not all mobile phone production in India is supported by the PLI scheme, only around 22% so far.

The Minister's overarching point is that the import dependency isn't as bad as Mr. Rajan says it is. That said, the Minister has admitted that the 'value-addition' – how much work an Indian mobile production plant is actually doing in creating the finished product – for mobile manufacturing is probably low. But he added, it will go up as the broader supply and assembly chain settles in India.

Who is right?
To his credit, Mr. Rajan accounted for this critique in his initial paper. In a reply to the Minister last week, he argued that even if only 60% of imports are used for production, India's net exports will still be negative. That is, even if only 60% of screens, batteries, etc. are used to make mobile phones, the final import tally would still beat the final export tally.

The main divide is over whether the PLI programme will be able to create long-lasting jobs and firmly establish India as a manufacturing and supply hub that adds value to the production process.

The Minister believes that it will take time for the project's results to show. On the other hand, Mr. Rajan believes that without proof of PLI's success, there is an opportunity cost. After all, every rupee spent in PLI payments is money that could have gone into improving, say, the education system, an investment that would also help the Indian economy.

(Anuj Srivas is a freelance writer)

THE GIST

- Around five years ago, the Government of India decided it wanted more companies to make things in India. It has therefore introduced a key set of incentives through the production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme. Here, the government gives money to foreign or domestic companies that manufacture goods here.
- The industry that has shown the most enthusiasm for the PLI scheme is smartphone manufacturing. And with the scheme, mobile phone exports jumped from $300 million in FY2018 to an astounding $11 billion in FY23.
- However, the former RBI governor contends that while imports of fully put-together mobile phones have come down, the imports of mobile phone components have shot up between FY21 and FY23.

What are the concerns about drilling in the North Sea?

Why is the new move by the U.K. government worrying environment experts? How does offshore drilling affect marine biodiversity? What has the Climate Change Committee said?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:
U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently backed plans for new fossil fuel drilling off Britain's coast, worrying environment experts even as the world continues its stride towards irreversible climate change. According to an official statement released on July 31, the move will help Britain become more energy independent. The North Sea Transition Authority (NTSA), responsible for regulating oil, gas and carbon storage industries, expects the first of the new licences to be awarded in autumn, with the round expected to award over 100 licences in total.

What is the history of drilling there?
Geographically, the North Sea lies between England and Scotland on its west, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France on its south, and Norway, Denmark, and Germany on its east.

The 1958 Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf was the first international legislation to establish the rights of countries over the continental shelves adjacent to their coastlines and paved the way for exploration in the North Sea. The treaty came into force in 1964, shortly after the U.K. Parliament passed the Continental Shelf Act in April of the same year. The Act provides for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf based on the 1958 convention. It delineated the jurisdiction the U.K. had over oil and gas resources under the seabed near its shores.

The first licence for exploration in the U.K. North Sea was awarded to British Petroleum (BP) in September 1964. The following year, BP discovered natural gas in the North Sea, off the east Anglican coast. In 1970, BP made its first discovery of commercial oil in the large Forties Field east of Aberdeen, Scotland. In the next 15 years, BP started more than 15 fields in the U.K. North Sea (and four in the Norwegian North Sea). More British, European, and U.S. companies continued their exploration of the North Sea, and by the 1980s, there were over a hundred installations looking for oil and gas.

The production from the North Sea peaked in 1999, when it produced 1,37,099 thousand tonnes of crude oil and natural gas liquids. By 2022, the total production declined to 38,037 thousand tonnes, according to official figures.

Why is offshore drilling problematic?
According to the U.S.-based advocacy group Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), offshore drilling puts "workers, waters, and wildlife" at risk. Drilling in seas and oceans for fossil fuels not only aggravates the threat of climate change but also warms oceans and raises sea levels. Offshore drilling is associated with a direct risk to marine biodiversity, as well as with indirect risks to coral reefs, shellfish and the marine ecosystem from acidic waters because of carbon pollution settling into oceans.

What about climate commitments?
In its March 2023 Progress Report to the U.K. Parliament, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) which advises the U.K. and devolved governments on emissions targets, said that the U.K. has not adequately prepared for climate change under the second National Adaptation Programme. In the U.K., National Adaptation Programmes are statutory programmes that the government must follow to help prepare the country for climate change, as required under the Climate Change Act. The second National Adaptation Programme covered the period from 2018-2023.

As per the CCC's report, there is "very limited evidence" of the implementation of adaptation at the scale needed to fully prepare for climate risk. According to the Climate Action Tracker, U.K.'s climate action is not consistent with the Paris Agreement. Although its overall rating is "almost sufficient", U.K.'s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term targets do not represent a fair share of the global effort to address climate change. Licensing new oil and gas extraction plans is incompatible with the 1.5°C limit in the rise in temperature, as per the Climate Action Tracker website.

THE GIST

- U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently backed plans for new fossil fuel drilling off Britain's coast, worrying environment experts.
- Drilling in seas and oceans for fossil fuels not only aggravates the threat of climate change but also warms oceans and raises sea levels.
- In its March 2023 Progress Report to the U.K. Parliament, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), said that the U.K. has not adequately prepared for climate change under the second National Adaptation Programme.

Govt. will place facts of State's water situation before apex court, says Shivakumar

We need 124 tmcft of water to meet basic needs, while it currently has only 55 tmcft in Cauvery basin. Around 24 tmcft is needed for drinking purposes of Bengaluru city alone: Deputy CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Water Resources D.K. Shivakumar has said that Karnataka will place before the Supreme Court, which will hear Tamil Nadu's plea for release of its allotment of Cauvery river water for the month of August, the facts about Karnataka's dire water situation.

Speaking to the media regarding the release of Cauvery water, he said: "The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has told us to release 10,000 cusecs of water daily till August 31. Karnataka needs a total of 124 tmcft of water to meet its basic needs. However, we now only have 55 tmcft available in the Cauvery basin. Around 24 tmcft of water is needed for drinking purposes for Bengaluru city alone. Another 20 tmcft of water is required for drinking purposes in Mysuru, Mandya, and Ramanagara."

After all-party meeting

Mr. Shivakumar said the government will convene an all-party meeting on August 23 regarding Cauvery, Mekedatu, and Mahadayi issues. "We have invited former Chief Ministers, Members of Parliament, and legal experts to the meeting. If an all-party delegation agrees to go and put pressure on Union government, we are ready for it," he said. "After the all-party meeting, it will be decided whether to file an appeal in the Supreme Court or not."

He argued that the Tamil Nadu government had "gone against the CWMA and not the Karnataka government." The Union government could have filed an affidavit against the Tamil Nadu petition, but they did not. "All these issues are well known to former Chief Ministers like Basavaraj Bommai and H.D. Kumaraswamy," Mr. Shivakumar explained.

"Mr. Kumaraswamy had said in the past that we and the people of Tamil Nadu should solve the Cauvery issue like brothers. I am only following his word," said Mr. Shivakumar. "It is my hope that instead of fighting over the issue of water, we should talk and solve it."

"We have no water to give Tamil Nadu. We released water twice so that the farmers' crops would not get damaged. We have already requested the authority to reconsider their decision," he added.

BJP protest in Mandya

Meanwhile, several BJP activists gathered at Sanjay Circle in Mandya and staged a demonstration against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

The protesters staged a sit-in at the protest venue, blocking movement of traffic. Sumalatha Ambareesh, Independent MP, regretted that injustice was always meted out to farmers of Mandya region whenever a crisis erupts over sharing of Cauvery waters with Tamil Nadu.

Water levels in Cauvery basin of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Storage in four Karnataka reservoirs
(KRS, Kabini, Harangi, and Hemavati)
- As of 1/6/2023 24.352 tmcft
- As of 1/6/2022 53.908 tmcft

Cumulative outflows
- Till 21/8/2023 33.347 tmcft
- Till 21/8/2022 226.448 tmcft

Withdrawals
- Till 21/8/2023 13.373 tmcft
- Till 21/8/2022 16.758 tmcft

Flows that should have been ensured at the inter-State border at Biligundlu as per CWDT award in a normal year till 20/8/2023 70.07 tmcft

Cumulative inflows
- Till 21/8/2023 94.152 tmcft
- Till 21/8/2022 294.537 tmcft

Percentage of deficit with regard to inflows during the current water year 46.72, whereas last year it was surplus

Actual flows ensured at Biligundlu
- As of 20/8/2023 24.056 tmcft
- As of 20/8/2022 284.862 tmcft

Storage position in 4 reservoirs
- As of 21/8/2023 69.805 tmcft
- As on 21/8/2022 102.632 tmcft

Tamil Nadu
Storage in Mettur
- As of 1/6/2023 69.777 tmcft
- As of 1/6/2022 87.446 tmcft

Cumulative Inflows into Mettur
- Till 21/8/2023 15.002 tmcft
- Till 21.08.2022 291.586 tmcft

Cumulative outflows
- Till 21/8/2023 62.036 tmcft
- Till 21/8/2022 282.438 tmcft

Storage in Mettur
- As of 21/8/2023 21.232 tmcft
- As of 21.08.2022 93.500 tmcft

Cumulative releases to canals plus outflows from Mettur reservoir for Irrigation
- Till 21.08.2023 63.627 tmcft
- Till 21.08.2022 286.252 tmcft

*Source: Water Resources Department, Karnataka

BJP activists staging a demonstration against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, in Mandya on Monday.

Committee will be set up within a week to frame State Education Policy, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Madhu Bangarappa, and Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar at a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Karnataka government has decided to constitute a committee of experts to formulate the State Education Policy (SEP) within a week.

"The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) was formulated without taking the State governments into confidence. Education policy cannot be centrally imposed. A uniform education system cannot be imposed on a multi-cultured country. Therefore, we have decided to withdraw NEP," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who chaired a meeting of Vice-Chancellors, experts, and Education Department officials.

While States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have made it clear to the Union government that they will not implement NEP, even BJP-ruled States are also hesitant to implement NEP, the Chief Minister pointed out. He argued that though certificates might be issued every year under the norms of NEP, there is a question mark on how many job opportunities they will create for those who have studied for one or two years.

"Even if the poor students get job opportunities and quit study in a year or two, will they be able to study further in future?" questioned the Chief Minister. Mr. Siddaramaiah also said that educational institutions do not have the necessary infrastructure to implement the educational policy and this has created unnecessary confusion.

Role of universities

"It is not possible to bring a uniform education system in our country with its diversity in language, culture, and other factors. Universities should contribute to building equitable society. Any activities and actions which are against the Constitution should not take place in the universities. If students coming out from universities are still ignorant, devoid of rationalism and cling to caste and creed, then what they have got cannot be called education," he said.

Addressing the media, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the committee will include experts from higher education and school education.

Those under NEP

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar clarified how it will work with the batch that is already under NEP. "Students who have got admissions under NEP are in final-year degree courses now. NEP batch will end with them. Those students will get a three-year degree certificate and will not be promoted to four-year degree honours course, as the government will withdraw NEP."

Proposed govt. medical college to be shifted to Kanakapura from Ramanagara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to set up the medical college, which was earlier proposed to be constructed on the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science campus (RGUHS) at Ramanagara, to Kanakapura.

As announced in the State Budget, the government is all set to construct the medical college in Kanakapura and has started ground work to identify the land needed.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, speaking to the media, in Bengaluru on Monday after a meeting with department and RGUHS officials to discuss the campus construction issue, said: "Ramanagara will have only the admin block of the university." Justifying the decision to shift the college to Kanakapura, the Minister said: "The previous BJP government had shifted the college sanctioned for Kanakapura to Chickballapur."

A State delegation ledby Mr. Patil will meet the Union Health Minister on Tuesday to request him to sanction AIIMS in Raichur.

'State yet to get funds for Upper Bhadra project'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress MLA and Karnataka government's Special Representative in Delhi, T.B. Jayachandra, on Monday said the State government has not received funds from the Centre for implementation of the Upper Bhadra project irrigation and drinking water project.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the Union Budget for 2023-24 set aside an assistance of ₹5,300 crore for implementing the Upper Bhadra project for mitigating drought-prone central region and to provide sustainable micro-irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.

Mr. Jayachandra, who held meetings with senior officials of the government in Delhi and Bengaluru, said the Centre has decided to include the project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). The districts covered under the project are Chitradurga, Davangere, Chikkamagaluru, and Tumakuru.

The proposal on the project was mooted in the 1960s during the Congress government led by S. Nijalingappa.

INBRIEF

Speaker donates 20 cents of 'Naganakatte' land to family

U.T Khader, Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, donated 20 cents of his land at Punacha village near Vitla in Bantwal to the Dalwai family in the locality to help them continue Naga worship with religious fervour. This land, a portion of a coconut groove inherited by Mr. Khader from his ancestors, has a Naganakatte (naga bhoomi) and it was earlier under the control of the Dalwai family.

Fact-check unit to be set up to crack down on fake news

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday approved the establishment of a fact-check unit to crack down on fake news, fake emails, and cybercrime in the State. IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the IT/BT department would provide support for formulating laws to punish people involved in spreading fake news and cybercrime. But the fact-check unit would function under the Home Department.

HC upholds appointment of retired judges as inquiry officers by State RTCs

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) can appoint retired judges, including retired civil or retired district judges or former public prosecutors, as inquiry officers in disciplinary proceedings, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"Merely because the word 'authority' is used in Regulation 23(2) of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Servants (Conduct & Discipline) Regulations, 1971, that would not mean that an 'authority' is none other than an officer in the RTC," the court said.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order dismissing a batch of petitions filed by the employees of North East Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NEKRTC). The petitioners had questioned the appointment of retired civil and district judges and former public prosecutors as inquiry officers for the disciplinary enquires conducted against them and decision taken based on the outcome of such inquiry proceedings.

Though the term 'disciplinary authority' has been defined in the regulation, the 'inquiry authority' has not been so defined; and the reason for it cannot be far but to leave it to the discretionary of disciplinary authority to appoint such person as an inquiry authority as the disciplinary authority deems fit, the court said.

The court also pointed out that there cannot be cannot be any disagreement with the argument of NEKRTC that an inquiry proceeding, which requires application of rules, and procedures, there can be no better person than retired judges or legal practitioners who could interpret and apply the law.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Tel.06766-258301(0); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Bridge Works under BSY
Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.380
No. 2916 / Date : 18/08/2023

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Bridge Works under BSY in the District of Keonjhar.
2. No. of Work : 04 (Four) Nos
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.380	Dt.28.08.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.12.09.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.11.09.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.13.09.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-708: OIPR-25177/11/0016/2324

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW
No.: ME-3/2023/1877 Lucknow: Dated 21 August, 2023
The Time Schedule of Second Round Online Counseling for UP NEET PG-2023

The Time Schedule for the Admission through Online counseling in the State of Uttar Pradesh for Government/Private Medical/ Dental Colleges/Institutions /District Hospitals/Universities for Postgraduate (MD/MS/Diploma/DNB/MDS) Courses is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of Online Registration	25th August 2023 (From 11:00 AM) to 28th August 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 days
2	Date of depositing Registration Fee and Security Fee	25th August 2023 (From 11:00 AM) to 29th August 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	04 days
3	Date of declaration of Merit List	29th August 2023	01 day
4	Date of Online Choice Filling	01st September 2023 (From 11:00 AM) to 04th September 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 days
5	Date of Declaration of result of seat allotment	05 / 06th September 2023	01 day
6	Date for downloading allotment letters	08th September 2023 to 12th September 2023	05 days
7	Date for Admission process	08, 09th September and 11, 12th September 2023	04 days
8	Session Start	05th September 2023	

- Candidates registered during first round of counseling not required to register again.
- Candidates admitted in the first round of counseling are not required to deposit the security Money again.
- Candidates who have not been register in first round of counseling can participate in the Second round of counseling by depositing the registration fee of Rs.3000/- (Rs. Three thousand only).
- To participate in the counseling of MD/MS/Diploma, DNB and MDS courses, separate registration will be mandatory and it will also be mandatory to deposit separate security money.
- Candidates admitted in the first round of counseling are eligible for reshuffling in the second round of counseling.
- Such candidates, who have been allotted seat in first round of counseling, but not reported or resigned from admitted seat, will be eligible for the second round of counseling after depositing the security money again.
- Other important information and detailed description can be seen on the website https://upneet.gov.in and www.dgme.up.gov.in keep visiting this website from time to time for the latest information.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

CM writes to Nirmala Sitharaman seeking release of funds recommended by 15th Finance Commission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to release special grants and State-specific grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission and opposed the steepest cut of 23% in devolution of funds.

"The decrease in tax devolution share to Karnataka by the 15th Finance Commission when compared with 14th Finance Commission recommendation, has decreased the total tax devolution to the State by ₹37,011 crore in the past four years, from 202-21 to 2023-24," Mr. Siddaramaiah noted in his letter.

The 15th Finance Commission has reduced Karnataka's share in tax devolution to 3.647% of the divisible pool for the term 2020-21 -2025-26 from 4.71% recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

Income-distance criteria

Karnataka has lost heavily on the income-distance criteria adopted by the commission. The introduction of new methodology for compilation of GSDP has dramatically raised the State's GSDP in 2011-12 series by over 30% as against an average increase of less than 9% for all States put together. The increase in GSDP at absolute level was similarly reflected in a step up in per capita income affecting the standing of the State. It affected the share of State in Income-distance parameter from 4.2% as per the 14th Finance Commission to 1.1%. "This alone dragged the devolution share of the State from 4.71% awarded by 14th Finance Commission to 3.64% awarded by 15th Finance Commission."

Even though the IT-related services contribution has increased the GSDP of the State significantly in 2011-12 series, there was no corresponding contribution of these services to the State taxes as exports of IT services are zero rated.

What was recommended

The 15th Finance Commission for 2020-21 has recommended ₹5,495 crore to Karnataka as Special Grants for 2020-21. But the Centre has not considered the commission's recommendations.

In the final report for 2021-26, the commission awarded State's specific grants of ₹6,000 crore to Karnataka for holistic improvement of water bodies in Bengaluru and for peripheral ring road.

However, no grants have been released to the State so far and "this has been a major setback to the State's fiscal position" which is already strained due to severe cut in tax devolution, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

ABSTRACT

Recent parliamentary elections in India: a closer look

A recent paper, which has gained much traction, merits close scrutiny as it raises worries about the 'future of democracy' in India by claiming to detect 'irregular patterns' in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections

Ashutosh Kumar

Das, Sabyasachi, Democratic Backsliding in the World's Largest Democracy (July 3, 2023). Available at SSRN: dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4512936

A working paper titled 'Democratic Backsliding in the World's Largest Democracy', authored by Sabyasachi Das, an academic teaching economics in Ashoka University, has received much traction on social media and in academic circles. The paper merits close scrutiny as it raises worries about the 'future of democracy' in India by claiming to detect 'irregular patterns' in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The framework

Based on election studies literature that draws from democracies around the world, mainly the U.S., the paper argues that the 'irregularity patterns' visible in the 2019 elections can be attributed either to 'electoral manipulation' or to 'precise control' theses.

The 'precise control' thesis refers to the incumbent party's ability to precisely predict and then affect the win margins with the help of 'its superior electoral machinery' in closely contested constituencies. For this purpose, the party targets polling stations, especially the ones in urban areas with a large number of voters, as they are easier to access. This may result in a large turnout in these polling stations, resulting in high vote shares for the incumbent party. On the other hand, the 'electoral manipulation' thesis refers to targeted electoral discrimination at the local level, partly facilitated by the weak monitoring of election observers. This include the strategic/targeted suppression of certain community/group votes in the form of registration and/or turnout manipulation. This amounts to electoral fraud and raises serious question about electoral integrity.

The crux of the paper

Coming to India, the paper traces 'irregularity' in the 2019 elections in the form of 'excess/disproportionate wins' of the incumbent party (the BJP) in 'constituencies that were closely contested between a candidate from the incumbent party and a rival'. Using data from the website of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the paper mentions 59 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) where the absolute win margin for the winning party was within 0.05%, out of which the BJP won 41. The party won 22 out of 27 PCs in the States where it was the incumbent party. In these PCs, which had significant Muslim electorates, the discrepancy was visible in the high turnout at the polling stations, making a case for 'irregularity'. The paper looks at the datasets collected from ECI websites, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) post-poll survey and from 'standard sources' like published papers, and states that this 'pattern of irregularity' can be explained by the 'electoral manipulation thesis'.

In support of the contention that the data is 'less supportive' of the 'precise control thesis', the paper presents two arguments. The first argument is based on the CSDS post-poll data, which shows that the BJP and other contestant parties did not 'campaign significantly harder' in the closely contested PCs where the BJP managed to 'barely' win. Even then, these PCs, particularly the polling stations with a significant number of Muslim votes, registered high turnouts. The second argument is that the BJP did not campaign 'harder' in the polling stations having sizable Muslim voters, as the party did not 'expect to get significant support from them'. As per the CSDS poll data of the 2014 and 2019 elections, only '8 percent of Muslims reported to have voted for the BJP'.

Contested claims: A supporter of the BJP during a rally in New Delhi in 2019. AFP

As for the 'pattern of irregularity' being more consistent with the 'election manipulation thesis', the paper refers to the 'discrepancy' that occurred between the 'final count of EVM votes' for each Lok Sabha constituency for the first four of the seven phases of election as released by the ECI on its website, which did not match with the 'constituency wise number of votes in EVM' that was released later. The ECI 'removed the earlier figures from its website' after the 'media query'. The paper claims to trace 'discontinuous change with respect to the incumbent's win margin' in the later official figure and that 'the discontinuity' was 'concentrated in BJP ruled States'. Also, the EVM data discrepancy was 'significantly larger' in 'closely contested PCs barely won by BJP'. The paper claims to find 'the evidence on turnout discrepancy as indicative of manipulation done locally at the polling stations, rather than resulting from aggregation fraud at the constituency level'.

The paper argues that polling officials deputed in the polling stations 'exercise significant discretion in allowing registered voters'. It further alleges that the Muslim voters due to their names being easily identified in the electoral roll, were subjected to 'both strategic deletion and strategic discrimination'. The paper claims that this happened at polling stations having 'significant' Muslim voters in the BJP ruled States, as the State governments could 'influence assignment of officials in charge'. State Civil Service officers (SCS) were deputed in these polling stations because they were 'more likely to be politically pliable' being from the same State and under the State government. The role of the ECI also comes under scrutiny for the 'weak monitoring of counting of votes'. The author claims to have access to the data of 539 PCs (out of 543) containing 1, 804 counting observers to make this charge.

Furthermore, to substantiate the 'possibility of strategic deletion of Muslim voters', the paper calculates the growth rate of the voters in each Lok Sabha constituency taking the figures of the 2014 and 2019 elections. The paper finds that the growth rate fell discontinuously by 5 percentage points (compared to the mean of 0.09) in PCs barely won by the BJP, and the fall was 'concentrated in PCs with higher share of Muslim electorate'. Given the Muslim voters apathy towards the BJP, the paper questions both the 'high turnout' and the 'high' BJP vote share in the polling stations having significant Muslim presence, which was 'large in magnitude and statistically significant' in the PCs 'barely' won by the party. The paper claims to base its contention on data generated on the basis of the study of 8,50,000 polling stations drawn from 3,098 assembly constituencies from 475 Lok Sabha constituencies.

A critique of the paper

Regarding the claim that the BJP was not campaigning 'hard' enough in the PCs where it had a narrow win, the paper itself mentions that a party having 'the superiority of electoral machinery' could be 'able to accurately predict and affect win margins in closely contested constituencies'. And the BJP being the incumbent party at the national level and in some States, did have a distinctive superiority in terms of campaigning intensity, backed by human and material resources at its command. Therefore, the party did not need to campaign unusually 'harder'.

While accepting the CSDS poll data as a credible source which shows that the BJP did not canvass Muslim houses as much as other parties, the counter-argument can be that BJP would have actually targeted non-Muslim homes, belonging to the two large disadvantaged caste groups among Hindus, namely the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). These groups, the paper argues, have emerged as the 'new' supporting voters of the party. This might have accounted for the increase in the turnout in the identified polling stations.

Additionally, the CSDS data has its limitations due to its small sample size. In a State like U.P. with a huge population, the sample size was only 2,705, with actual interviews being much lesser. As the paper observes there are on an average seven Assembly constituencies (ACs) in each PC but in the CSDS, 2019 survey only two ACs were selected from each PC ; and three polling stations were selected from each selected AC.

As for the claim that SCS officers are 'politically pliable' and therefore complicit in turnout manipulations, is not an argument, but a conjecture. 'Political pliability' cannot be considered the hallmark of all SCS officers. That argument is unfair.

There were 36 PCs where Muslims constituted more than 40% of the total electorates in the 2014 and 2019 elections. Contesting on 21 seats, the BJP received 28.92% of the vote. The BJP won only 5 seats in the two elections, though not from the same PCs. Interestingly, of the 59 PCs listed in the paper that show a narrow margin of win either for the BJP or any other party, there are only three PCs having more than 40% of Muslim voters. If one goes by the CSDS poll data findings based on the 2014 and 2019 elections that Muslim voters generally do not vote for the BJP, then the electoral verdicts in most PCs where they have 'significant presence' negate the 'election manipulation thesis' of the 'suppression' of the Muslim vote. In any case, as Hilal Ahmed, a faculty at CSDS argues, there is no 'credible proof' to argue that Muslims constitute a 'single homogenous' voting community and whose electoral choice is 'self-evident', (that they vote en masse against the BJP).

Interestingly, the paper itself concedes that 'the absolute difference between the two official versions of EVM turnout data could be due to 'administrative errors during counting of votes'. The paper also absolves the ECI of engaging in 'direct tempering of turnout data ex-post'. Moreover, barring only one case, as per the data gathered, the magnitude of data revision is smaller than BJP's absolute margin of victory. As for the question mark over the credibility of the ECI based on the allegations of 'weak monitoring' of 'arbitrary deletion of names of registered Muslim voters' at local levels, and also showing 'bias in scheduling of elections', the paper cites a set of articles. Ironically, another set of articles and even CSDS and global surveys are cited in the paper which show peoples' high level of trust in the 'independence and institutional strength' of the institution.

The paper also concedes that the tests/evidence/datasets ' are ... not proof of fraud, nor does it suggest that manipulation was widespread' as proving 'electoral manipulation in a robust democracy is a significantly harder task that would require detailed investigation of electoral data in each constituency separately'. Even then, it goes on to raise serious questions about the wellbeing of India's electoral democracy. And in support of its contention about 'democratic backsliding/democratic reversal' in India, the paper quotes from the Freedom House Index, 2021, the Democracy Report, 2020, V-Dem Annual Report 2021. However, the paper itself refers to another world-wide Gallup Poll survey which rates India higher than older democracies like the U.K. and France in terms of the confidence of the electorates in India.

Ashutosh Kumar teaches in the Department of Political Science at Panjab University. Views are personal.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms N. M. Sahay, Calcutta, wants to know the meaning of 'It is up to you to do it'"

" 'It is up to you to do it' means it is your responsibility. It is incumbent on you to do it.

It is up to the government to do something about the quality of the TV programmes.

It is up to him to make up his mind about this soon.

It was used first in America in 1308 and it is used now both in British and American English. Young people in Britain started using 'down to you' instead of 'up to you' in fun and it has caught on.

It is down to the Prime Minister to settle the matter.

It is down to him to guide her properly.

'Down to' is also used in the sense of 'fault of' these days.

The accident was down to his reckless driving.

'Down to' is found in a couple of recent dictionaries."

"Sir, Ms. K. Anita, Secunderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'deadlock'."

"When two sides negotiate to arrive at some settlement and no agreement is reached because of differences, you say that the meeting ended in a deadlock.

The meetings between the workers and the management reached a deadlock over the bonus issue.

It can also be used as a verb.

The meetings between the workers and the management have been deadlocked for some months now."

"Sir, Ms. R. Gowri wants to know the meaning of 'bob up'."

" 'Bob up' means 'to appear, especially unexpectedly'.

She bobbed up when I was in the middie of a discussion.

The word 'bob' has about twenty meanings and I don't want to go into them now."

"Sir, Mr M. M. Ehsan, 22, Marappa Block, JC Nagar, Bangalore, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to make a clean breast of.'"

"When you make a clean breast of something, you tell the truth about something bad you have done; you don't hide anything.

When he was questioned by the police, he made a clean breast of the theft he had committed."

"Sir, Mr. C. Sugumar wants to know the meaning of the word 'thesaurus'."

" 'Thesaurus is "a storehouse of information, especially dictionary or encyclopaedia'.

This is a thesaurus of slang.

The word is used these days to mean a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms. Beat, strike, hit are synonyms. Synonyms are words with similar meanings in the same language. 'Antonym' is the opposite of 'synonym'. 'Antonym' is a word that is opposite in meaning to another. Examples: good, bad; blunt, sharp; big, small. 'Thesaurus' is from the Greek word 'thesauros', a treasure house. It acquired the figurative sense of 'treasure of knowledge' when it came into Latin.

Published in The Hindu on January 31, 1989.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

August 22 is observed as 'Madras Day'. A quiz on the bustling south Indian metropolis

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Name the 'founder' of Madras who arrived in July 1969 in a ship called 'The Eagle'.

QUESTION 2

In present day Madras, there are two statues on/near the famous Marina beach that is reminiscent of the famous photograph of the American Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima. One is the 'Triumph of Labour'. Where is the other?

QUESTION 3

In 1918, what did Mahatma Gandhi establish in Madras to highlight and recognise the importance of the whole nation speaking one language?

QUESTION 4

Which part of Madras gets its name from the 230 weaver families that settled there at the instance of Governor George Morton Pitt to produce enhanced quality of cotton for export?

QUESTION 5

Madras is presently home to two Ramon Magsaysay Award winners (one in 1971 for Community Leadership and the other in 2016 for Emergent Leadership). Name both.

QUESTION 6

On September 22, 1986, what rare incident made a famous venue in Madras part of sporting history?

QUESTION 7

At which famous institution in Madras do 'mountains move and rivers stay still'?

QUESTION 8

Name the two 'sister cities' of Madras in the U.S.

Visual:
This is a spy cartoon in Vanity Fair of Robert Burke, 1st Baron _____ who is familiar to residents of Madras for two famous landmarks. Fill in the blank. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This player won the Golden Ball for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. **Ans: Aitana Bonmati from FC Barcelona, Spain**
2. This woman footballer holds the record for the most international goals. **Ans: Christine Sinclair from Canada**
3. This country holds the record for most number of Women's World Cup championships. **Ans: United States**
4. The other country, apart from Spain, which has both the men's and the women's World Cup. **Ans: Germany**
5. This Japanese footballer scored the most goals in the 2023 Women's World Cup. **Ans: Hinata Miyazawa**
Visual: This player was named the Best Young Player of the 2023 tournament. **Ans: Salma Paralluelo**
Early Birds: Vineet Giri| Vinod Chandra Raiguni| Indra Sharma| M. Suresh Kumar| Sadhan Kumar Panda

Word of the day

Bucolic:
a country person; a short poem descriptive of rural or pastoral life; relating to shepherds or herdsmen or devoted to raising sheep or cattle; idyllically rustic

Synonyms: peasant, provincial, idyll, pastoral

Usage: *His bucolic lifestyle has done him a lot of good.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/bucolicpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bjuːˈkɒlɪk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘I do not buy the claims that Project Tiger has been a spectacular success in recent times’

Official claims that tiger numbers are now maximal and need to be ‘capped’ should be rejected because expenditure on tiger conservation has gone up tenfold or more, says Karanth

INTERVIEW

Dr. K. Ullas Karanth

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A file photo of a tiger at Bannerghatta Zoological Park.

We should have clear-cut goals and aim for that and have measurements to show if we are heading towards the goal or not,” believes leading tiger expert Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, who was part of the recent Nature inFocus Festival, a three-day event in Bengaluru, celebrating nature, wildlife and conservation.

Karanth, the first biologist to radio-collar wild tigers in India back in 1990, has never had any qualms about expressing his opinion, even unpopular ones such as the need to get rid of a man-killing animal immediately, rather than attempt to capture and translocate it. “Conservation is about saving rare species,” he points out. “It is not about saving every individual animal. We must have that clarity,” says the Emeritus Director of the Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, he talks about his scepticism about current tiger conservation strategies, the complexities of human-animal conflict and why the cheetah project was doomed from the start.

You have discussed how our ambition for the tiger project isn’t enough, and that we could accommodate a lot more tigers in India. Can you tell me a little about why you think so, on the heels of the recent All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) report that claimed that the tiger count in Karnataka has risen to at least 435 tigers?

You need to start by understanding the potential carrying capacity of a habitat i.e., the number of animals that a given habitat can sustain. Not all habitats have the same carrying capacity. In the Russian far east, for instance, you can have only 1-2 tigers per 100 sq. km since prey densities are naturally low because it is cold and not a productive habit for prey animals like deer and wild pigs.

K. Ullas Karanth

In productive habitats, such as the deciduous forests or grasslands in the Himalayan foothills in India, tiger density is much higher because you have a lot more prey. In a multiple-year study published in the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2004, we showed that tiger densities in India can go up to 15-16 tigers per 100 sq. km. This is eight times what is possible in Russia, because of the higher prey densities that exceed 50 or more animals. In both places, the predator-prey ratio is about 1 tiger to 500 prey.

According to the government’s own statistics, the type of forests where tigers can live is around 3.8 lakh sq. km in India. But the reality of it is that only a little over 10-20% of that area is well-protected. All I am saying is, if you push up the protection in the remaining forest area, you can still have 10,000 or more tigers, even if we can attain densities of 5 tigers per hundred sq. km.

Official claims that tiger numbers are now maximal and need to be “capped” should be rejected because expenditure on tiger conservation has gone up tenfold or more. Either spend less money or take all this money and have 15,000 tigers. They cannot say, ‘Give us these huge sums of money, and we can only have 3500 tigers.’ It shows a lack of ambition and financial prudence. When the potential is 15,000, why are your expectations so low? Taxpayers are not here to feed this growing bureaucracy. They want their money to go and feed the tigers and let their numbers rebound.

At the beginning of Project Tiger, places like Nagarahole, Bandipur, and Kanha were all in a miserable state. Through effective protection in the first twenty-five years--part of which involved some village relocation, stopping all hunting, and controlling livestock grazing drastically–the tigers came back. It doesn’t happen immediately, took almost 25 years, but it happened.

From 1970 to 2000, we had this recovery in 10 percent of our tiger habitats which were the first ones to be protected.

The budgets were extremely low in those first few years, but the government did a terrific job of protecting the tigers with meager resources, and they came back.

But now, in the last 25 years, we have sunk so much money, and we have not seen commensurate returns. We have not seen the cost-effective progress we did in the first 25 years. Yet, claims are being that Project Tiger has been a spectacular success in recent times. I do not buy this.

What are your thoughts about increasing man-animal conflict in the country, and the way this conflict is viewed so differently in rural communities–where people are directly affected–and urban ones?

There are many approaches to mitigating the conflict. But the first thing to understand is that--because it involves big dangerous animals-- we have a tendency to exaggerate the scale of the conflict. The scale of tiger-related annual mortalities is about 20-25 human beings across the country. Even if you look at elephants, which do kill a lot more people, it is only around 400 people a year. If we look across India, feral street dogs are killing more people than tigers, but we are feeding them to proliferate even more.

Conflicts escalate when tiger densities reach very high levels. This happens in well-protected parks where prey density is unnaturally high, reaching levels that are not normal. This is partly because of drastic habitat manipulation, where they have created water holes, put solar pumps, created large, fertile grasslands, and so on. This artificially bumps up the prey density, and once that happens, you will have the occasional problem of surplus tigers.

There is often no ecological thinking behind wildlife management in India. Yes, there will be dry seasons where wildlife mortality is higher, but these are natural fluctuations and a part of their evolution.

Prevention is better than cure when dealing with such conflict. If people in critical wildlife habitats are willing to move out, that can be a permanent solution. Otherwise, you need to create barriers, trenches, basically something to isolate people from the conflict.

But if the conflict escalates, and a man-eating tiger emerges and starts killing people, it needs to be killed immediately. You cannot wait for the 3rd, 4th, or 5th human killing to take a decision. Also, the idea of taking them and dumping them somewhere else does not work. First, catching and tranquillising them is very hard, and takes days or weeks during which more people are killed by the cat. Then, even if you capture and release them somewhere else, they end up killing and displacing an existing tiger or will get killed by an existing tiger. You will not “save” tigers either way.

This is a complicated problem with multiple facets, involving society, highly threatened species, growing economy, so you need to take a deeper, nuanced approach to it. If a killer is stalking your neighbourhood, you can’t say he is cute and be sentimental about it and say let him rampage. The rural person is reacting from fear, loss of livelihood and life. The educated, urban people who have no skin in the game, on the other hand, are often driven by this idea of “saving every tiger.”

This comes from an animal rights perspective, where they believe that every individual animal has the right to live.

We cannot practice conservation with that as the guidepost. Conservation aims at species recovery, building healthy populations of wild, free-ranging animal species: killing a man-eater will not impact the overall population levels. Every individual tiger is not important in that sense, and fighting for this is not ecologically sensible.

What are your thoughts about the cheetah reintroduction project?

As someone interested in nature, I am definitely a supporter of restoring species that used to exist in the past to their former range in India. There are several species like this, the cheetah is only one of them. There is also the bustard, lion, wolf, Javan and Sumatran rhinos, Banteng, Manipur brow-antlered deer, and so on.

I am not opposed to the idea of using the cheetah as a flagship to restore arid and semi-arid landscapes, but there must be a method to this madness. It is a tough goal that requires 2-3 decades of planning, modelling, and understanding the biology of the cheetah. Also, this goal needs to be pursued in a non-bureaucratic manner, with all qualified ecological scientists playing a key role. The problem is the present cheetah project never had all this applied to it right from the beginning in 2010 and has meandered rudderlessly since then.

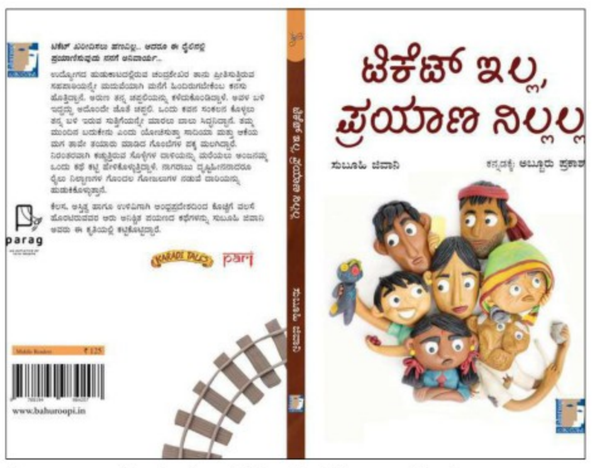
Right now, it is being done in a haphazard manner. They are dumping cheetahs trying to attain densities that are 3-4 times more than what can be sustained. Then, they are corralling them, chasing them back in if they wander off driven by their instinct, and feeding them captured deer.

Cheetahs need large spaces; in the wild, their population is less than 1 cat per 100 square kilometres. For 20 cheetahs to live inside the 750 sq km Kuno Park, according to the goal set by the WII-NTCA population model, is impossible. Their social system does not allow them to survive in these circumstances. This failure of the project is unfortunate because any better attempt in the future to restore cheetahs on the spatial scale necessary will be set back by this doomed example. This is not a natural restoration project; It has now turned into just another glorified zoo, as I had predicted a year ago.

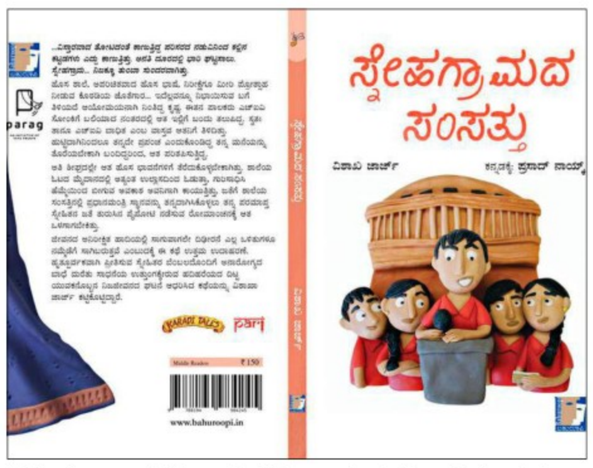
Inspirational ‘news’ as stories for growing children

The five books are made specifically for children over the age of nine, as the publishing house feels there are very few books for the middle group

Yemen S.
BENGALURU



Cover page of the book published by Bahuroopi Books.



All books are available on the Bahuroopi website and in bookstores.

Bahuroopi, a publication that has brought out several Kannada books by renowned authors, is now collaborating with Parag, an initiative of Tata Trusts, Karadi Tales, and Pari to bring out five books for children over the age of nine.

The five books titled *Marali Manege* written by Priti David and translated by Rajaram Tallur, *Gedde Bitte* by Nivedha Ganesh and translated by Santosha Tamraparani, *Ticket Illa Prayana Nillalla* by Subhi Jiwani and translated by Abburu Prakash, *Nandini Emba Jaane* by Aparna Karthikeyan and translated by V Gayathri and *Snehagramada Samsattu* by Vishaka George and translated by Prasad Naik, are all based on true events, written in English and translated to Kannada.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sreeja. V.N, the founder of Bahuroopi said that the books are the publication’s first series of books for children in order to develop reading habits among children. “We have always had books for adults by various authors. However, over time, we realised we have not had any books for children and we felt were also contributing to the reduction of reading habits among children. We had a discussion with children and parents and learned that something in the content of existing books for children is stopping them from reading books.”

“When we were younger, books were the only form of education and entertainment. We grew up with books and always had a connection with them. There were no digital forms of distractions. Though we had television, it was not enough to fill all our voids. But now, children have mobile phones, tablets, computers, television, and all kinds of digital distractions,” Ms. Sreeja added.

The five books are made specifically for children over the age of nine, as the publishing house feels that there are many books for children at their primary ages and books for adults, but very few for growing children in the middle group. “There are picture books for toddlers and for children up to the age of eight in all languages including Kannada and English, but for children over the age of nine, who are close to teenage, there is a complete void, especially in Kannada literature. Children at this age hardly read books, and even if they do they read traditional stories or foreign series. We felt that there was a need for contemporary Kannada literature for children, which is why these five books were made.”

Stories from news

Interestingly, all the books are based on true stories and were found and published by Parag and Tata Tales. What is special about is that these books are not just ‘stories’, but actual news stories that were updated on the Pari website.

“Children have not just stopped reading books but have stopped reading news too. So, we thought this would be a great opportunity to bridge the gap,” Ms. Sreeja said.

The book *Snehagramada Samsattu*, which is called *Uncommon Parliament* in English, is the story of a special school that educates children who are HIV positive, and how a young boy who is looked down upon in the outside world, turns into the most popular child in the school. Another book in the series *Gedde Bitte* is about the life of a differently abled girl who is from a village in Tamil Nadu, who learns to swim in her village well, is identified by a sports personality, and ends up participating in the Paralympics. The other three stories are also inspirational and based on true events.

These books are not just ‘stories’, but actual news stories that were updated on the Pari website

“They were originally published in English and are now being translated into Indian languages. We plan to introduce these books as alternate textbooks across Karnataka soon,” Ms. Sreeja said.

The books are available on the Bahuroopi website and across bookstores in Karnataka.

Three books of the series are priced at ₹125, and two are priced at ₹150, while the entire series will cost ₹675.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 20, 1973

Octroi: Minister’s Offer to Bus Operators

Bangalore, Aug. 19: The Minister for Municipal Administration, Mr. B. Basavalingappa, said here yesterday that he was prepared to discuss with transport operators the question of difficulties faced by them because of the collection of octroi. The Government could consider abolition of octroi if alternate sources of revenue were suggested by the operators themselves.

The Minister, who was releasing the proceedings of the “Seminar on good-bye to octroi” organised by the Transport’s Club said that octroi was an important source of revenue for the municipalities and was yielding a revenue of Rs. 7 crores to the exchequer.

Legislation to Limit Size of Family Suggested

Bangalore, Aug 19: Prof. M. N. Srinivas, sociologist, suggested here yesterday that legislation should be brought forward to limit the size of the family.

Inaugurating the one-day seminar on Population Education jointly organised by the Family Planning Association of India, Bangalore, and the Workers’ Education Centre he favoured the introduction of a citizenship course for imparting population education to the people. He also suggested that industries should take up population education programme on priority basis in the interest of the welfare of the workers.

(The edition dated August 22 is not available.)

Starry, starry sight

What is the big deal about the Van Gogh 360 Live Experience? A first-person account...

Day dreaming in colour Scenes from the Van Gogh 360 Live experience. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj

It is a lovely morning and since it is early on a weekday, there are just a handful of people milling about the mall and almost all of them are making their way to the Van Gogh 360º Live Experience. The makeshift box office and posters, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, make it seem like a day at the movies, but nothing could be further than the truth.

The first room or hall, if you would like to call it that, has a few reproductions of Van Gogh's famous works – selfie spots so all the click-crazy people can get it out of their system while they wait for the previous batch of visitors to leave.

The next enclosure has internally-lit standees that take you through the artist's life; some of Van Gogh's most popular paintings form the backdrop for this text. There is something to be said for viewing a work of art that is lit up from within. The incandescence combined with the enlarged size, gives you an appreciation that could be lost if you were viewing the same works in their actual size.

Hats off to the writer or team who put together the content – it piques your interest without sounding like an art history textbook. It also jostles you into a place of empathy for the artist, which makes what follows even more spectacular, because the next room is where the magic unfolds.

It is dark and a lightbulb is flickering, a wisp of smoke flits across the light. Gradually, the room brightens and I see tired, expectant faces looking at me. But they are not – they are seated around a table, waiting to start their dinner after a long day in the fields. I had walked in on *The Potato Eaters*.

They carry on with their well-deserved meal, oblivious to all of us. But, there is no time to stand and stare. I find a spot on the floor and let the colours wash over me as one painting morphs into the next. Trees in the garden give way to fields ripe with harvest, *Irises* bloom, grow and fade away, labourers snooze under the midday sun and sunflowers whirl by in bursts of colour.

The exhibition is best viewed solo or in the company of those who behave sensibly in an art gallery

All the while, there is an unobtrusive melody playing in the background. Snatches of familiar tunes blend in with the sensory delight my eyes rove on. *Almond Blossoms* drift past on a soft gentle breeze and as silly as it sounds, I stretch my hand out to catch one of those little white petals dancing by. It is hard to imagine the same sensations in the absence of music; the choice of classical pieces from Van Gogh's era or thereabouts, only add to the immersive, surround sound andsight experience of wandering in time.

As the walls of the *Bedroom in Arles* give way to bright blue skies, I wonder if I am walking in Van Gogh's mind, if that is how he saw the world unimpeded by barriers, fences or boundaries. Perhaps my only regret, if I dare imagine one, was that the *Cafe Terrace at Night* was displayed for a fraction shorter than some of his other works. It is a personal favourite and for an all-too brief moment I was there on that sidewalk, heading towards my table lit by the soft glow of lamps.

To truly soak in the marvel that it is, I would suggest viewing the exhibition by yourself or with a special someone, or at the very least with someone sensible enough to understand they are in an art gallery, albeit an unconventional one.

Of course, there will always be the heavy-footed plods trying to take photos of themselves at *The Yellow House* or stepping on to the *Terrace in the Luxembourg Gardens*. It is to no avail since it is akin to taking pictures in a movie theatre. Word to the wise: you are standing in the path of high-beam projectors, and every unflattering bulge that you think is hidden under your clothes goes on display for amused (or irate) onlookers. Yes, they should be admiring Van Gogh, but if people who should have known better get in their way, you cannot blame them for taking in the free eyeful, too.

If you do not know what to expect from the Van Gogh 360º, you are in for a treat because nothing prepares you to have your mind blown.

And even if you have been subject to the various photos, reels, features and first-person accounts that abound online (this one included), nothing comes close to encountering it yourself.

While one could argue that the animation could have been crisper or the imagery sharper, and I have no doubt the more technically qualified could pinpoint the lack more articulately, it cannot take away from the experience of living in those immortal works of art, fleeting though it might be.

Van Gogh 360º Live is on at Bharatiya City Mall in Bengaluru till September 3. Tickets on Bookmyshow. For exhibition dates in other cities, log on to https://vangogh360.in/

Building blocks for creativity

Play date Bhuvaneshwari Kumaravel (below) and her creations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

When Bhuvaneshwari Kumaravel became a mother, she found it difficult to keep her children engrossed. "They outgrew their toys so fast and then would invariably take to screens. We live in nuclear families and the children have no choice when we are busy at work."

Bhuvaneshwari was unhappy that her children were missing out on traditional games. "I started reading up on traditional Indian toys to see if I could create something that could be used over a longer period of time, a one-time investment that would reduce the plastic pile up at home."

The aim, Bhuvaneshwari says, was to create a sophisticated, safe, eco-friendly toy that would not only keep the child away from the screen, but also challenge their minds. "I travelled to Mysuru and Channapatna and interacted with the local artisans to partner with us." That is how Gift Equals Love LLP (GEL) was born.

Bhuvaneshwari started with wooden toys and games from Channapatna. "We improvised on everything we had initially planned, to create magnetic toy sets that could be used in more than one way. When I saw that my children were hooked, I knew we had something that we could share with the world."

The toys, Bhuvaneshwari says, will aid the child's brain development and reduce screen time. "One toy set has multiple uses. It is versatile and children can create anything with them.

The toys are all handmade using vegetable dyes with the artisans bringing in their traditional skills into play, while modern technology is used for the magnetic pieces. Bhuvaneshwari now has a toy manufacturing and trading company in Mysuru. "I had started a page on social media posting my challenges as a mother to keep my children engaged and away from screens. Parents connected and since I had no business background, I started by selling on social media."

"I also believe the timing was right. Though I started in 2016, the sales boomed during COVID-19. Both parents and children took to the toys with their traditional designs and bright colours."

The toys, Bhuvaneshwari says come in two variants – Gelmag and Geltiles and can be used to create 2-D and 3-D structures. "These sets are made from recyclable plastics and magnets. We have toys for a three-month old as well as magnetic ones that can be used by children and adults alike. They come with an instruction booklet and we have videos on our website that show the endless possibilities of the toys."

The toys are available online and are priced from ₹900.

Celebrating artists with autism

The Bangalore Creative Circus gallery is hosting an art exhibition, Beautiful Minds, that celebrates the creativity of artists with autism. Displaying the works of eight gifted individuals, the exhibition challenges societal perceptions and underscores the artists' resilience in the face of challenges.

Running till August 27, the exhibition showcases the talents of artists including Kalash Cariappa, Rohit Anand, Tanush Pulsay, and others. These artists have already left their mark on international stages like the Kochi Biennale and the Paris 'Outsider Art' Fair.

The event is the culmination of the autism-specific advanced art program at Sense Kaleidoscopes, an academy dedicated to individuals with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. Founded in 2013, Sense Kaleidoscopes addresses the gaps in India's education system for autistic children, offering unique educational and art-skilling curricula.

Art from the heart Some of the works on display at Beautiful Minds. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Through their artwork, these artists defy preconceived limitations, highlighting their dignity and disproving misconceptions. The exhibition not only showcases their remarkable creations but also promotes understanding and inclusivity.

The exhibition will be on at the Bangalore Creative Circus gallery from 11 am to 6 pm, with free entry (closed on Mondays).

CITYBEATS

Meet the author

AUGUST 22, 6PM
Meet author of the book *Vajpayee,* Abhishek Choudhary, at an evening titled 'Meet and Greet'.
Hosted by Atta Galatta, *Vajpayee* is a tribute to fomer prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. You can interact with the author and also get yourself a signed copy of the book.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar.
Call 9632510126 for details.

More than an act

AUGUST 26 AND 27
Tahatto is organising its 10th Edition of Act One – a weekend introductory workshop in theatre. The focus will be on understanding one's body, finding a voice, discovering confidence, learning to observe and giving the participant a first-hand experience of theatre. Open to anyone aged above 16 years.
At Lahe Lahe. Registrations on BookMyShow and Tahatto.com

Dance romance

LAST DATE IS AUGUST 25
Attakkalari-Inlaks Schorlarship has called for applications from aspiring dancers, who wish to pursue a comprehensive professional dance education. Initiated by Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts and The Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation, the scholarship will be provided to two candidates.
Application form on https://forms.gle/GcQQVbkeEv86Cy1Y9

189 tribal colonies in Kerala still lack Internet access

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Though Kerala was the first State in the country to declare the right to Internet a basic right, as many as 189 Adivasi *oorus* (tribal colonies) spread over 12 districts in the State still have no access to Internet and mobile connectivity.

The lack of access affects the prospects of over 5,000 tribal students in these colonies.

According to the data available with the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Idukki has the highest number of tribal colonies cut off digitally – 75 colonies, accommodating over 2,000 tribal students. Kannur comes second with 1,140 students.

4G services

Murali M. Nair, Joint Director in-charge, Directorate of Scheduled Tribes Development Department, said the department had sought the Forest Department's permission to set up towers in tribal colonies situated inside the forest under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act.

Internet and mobile connection in these colonies would be made available under a Union Cabinet-approved project that aims at providing 4G mobile services in remote areas.

Officials said that the work on setting up the towers would be launched soon after permission was granted.

Beyond the Net

The lack of access to Internet affects over 5,000 tribal students

	Colonies	Students
Thiruvananthapuram	19	318
Pathanamthitta	4	27
Kottayam	1	8
Ernakulam	7	303
Thrissur	5	90
Palakkad	23	594
Malappuram	4	149
Idukki	75	2,011
Wayanad	24	387
Kozhikode	4	28
Kannur	19	1,140
Kasaragod	4	143

ISTOCKPHOTO

"We hope that by December, the State will be in a position to address the digital divide in the tribal colonies," said another senior officer.

Government sources said that community study rooms set up in various parts of the State provided facilities for students to use the Internet.

However, students from remote digitally cut-off colonies seldom make use of such facilities.

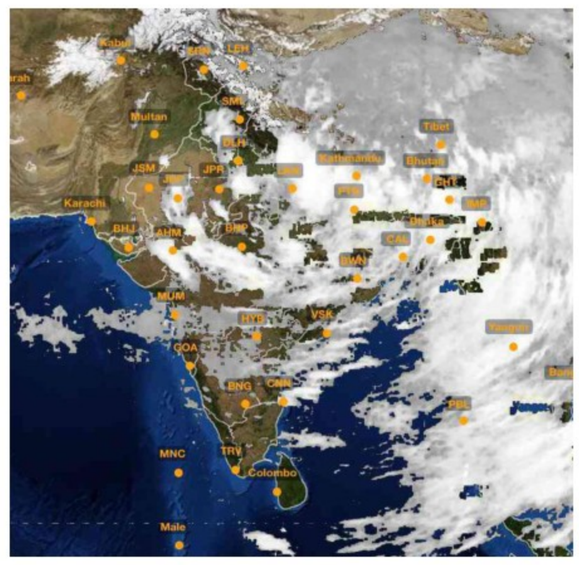
KFON project

The previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had declared Internet connection a basic right when the ₹1,548-crore Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) – a project aimed at providing free Internet access to 20 lakh below the poverty line (BPL) families in the State and providing Internet connection at a nominal rate to the public – was launched in 2019 and the first phase of the project was commissioned in June 2023.

The Kerala High Court had earlier held that the right to have access to the Internet is part of the fundamental right to education as well as the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Uttarakhand, West Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, East Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	34.8	27.6	Kozhikode	—	33.6	25.4
Ahmedabad	4.0	32.0	25.3	Kurnool	—	34.4	25.2
Aizawl	7.0	30.4	21.9	Lucknow	4.0	34.2	27.8
Allahabad	—	37.0	28.5	Madurai	—	39.2	26.1
Bengaluru	—	30.8	20.9	Mangaluru	3.7	30.5	23.4
Bhopal	—	27.5	23.8	Mumbai	—	31.8	26.4
Bhubaneswar	2.0	32.8	26.6	Mysuru	—	31.8	26.4
Chandigarh	8.0	35.9	27.6	New Delhi	—	37.7	26.5
Chennai	—	35.5	28.3	Patna	—	35.1	28.4
Coimbatore	—	34.7	23.4	Port Blair	0.5	28.4	24.9
Dehradun	58.7	29.8	23.6	Puducherry	—	37.1	27.8
Gangtok	24.0	20.5	18.5	Pune	1.5	31.2	22.7
Goa	15.0	31.1	23.6	Raipur	—	30.1	24.6
Guwahati	—	35.0	26.4	Ranchi	—	32.2	24.1
Hubballi	—	30.0	22.0	Shillong	—	25.4	18.4
Hyderabad	—	26.2	21.4	Shimla	—	23.8	17.8
Imphal	0.8	29.7	21.3	Srinagar	—	34.0	19.6
Jaipur	1.0	36.0	27.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5	24.8
Kochi	2.0	30.8	25.8	Tiruchi	—	38.5	27.0
Kohima	43.0	24.6	18.6	Vijayawada	—	35.4	27.0
Kolkata	—	34.2	28.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.5	28.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	36	.44	62	161	
Bengaluru	7	—	.34	—	119	
Chennai	7	5	.78	—	32	
Delhi	—	6	100	51	68	
Hyderabad	6	.37	.16	91	132	
Kolkata	.13	.15	.22	41	73	
Lucknow	.17	7	.10	70	50	
Mumbai	5	—	103	—	40	
Pune	—	.27	.49	142	109	
Visakhapatnam	.20	.33	.48	62	84	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Maninagar, Ahmedabad recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 161 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast,Kukrail Picnic Spot-1, Lucknow recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 70.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BRS starts early, announces 115 names for Assembly polls

Telangana CM Chandrasekhar Rao to contest two seats — Gajwel and Kamareddy; only seven candidates have been changed; party has ruled out the possibility of any alliance with Left parties

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Monday announced candidates for 115 of the 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana for the upcoming Assembly election with only seven changes.

In a surprising decision, party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has announced that he would contests from two seats this time – Gajwel and Kamareddy.

Mr. Rao has also ruled out the possibility of any alliance with the Left parties – CPI and CPI (M) – by stating that announcing the candidates for 115 seats in one go meant that the party had no interest in any poll alliances.

Poll bugle: K. Chandrasekhar Rao announcing the candidates list for the upcoming Assembly election, on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Reiterating that the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen would continue to be a friendly party of the BRS, he said the two would sweep all 29 seats in Hyderabad and erstwhile Rangareddy districts.

Anti-party activities

Asked about Malkajigiri MLA Mynampalli Hanumantha Rao's 'ultimatum' to the leadership that he wants ticket for his son for the Medak seat or else he would quit the party, Mr. Rao it was up to him. He, however, made it clear the BRS would not tolerate anti-party activities.

Mr. Rao said the party would release its election manifesto at its *Simha Garjana* public meet in Warangal on October 16.

Gen. K.S. Thimayya's statue dislodged in Madikeri

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A statue of Gen. K.S. Thimayya in Madikeri got dislodged and fell to the ground after a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus crashed into it early on Monday.

Gen. Thimayya was Chief of the Army Staff from 1957 to 1961, and his statue was unveiled on April 21, 1973, with Field Marshal Manekshaw performing the honours.

Bus crash

As reported by the Madikeri town police, the bus crashed into the statue when the driver tried to avoid hitting a pick-up jeep approaching from the side.

Describing the incident as regrettable, Virajpet MLA A.S. Ponnanna directed the Deputy Commissioner to order a thorough probe into the incident.

"Initial findings suggest the bus accident caused the damage, though a detailed inquiry will be held. The statue will be reinstalled with full honours," he said.

Shifted

The statue has been shifted to Gen. Thimayya Memorial in Madikeri, which is also known as Sunny Side, once the residence of the former Army chief.

Chandrayaan-3's Lander establishes contact with Chandrayaan-2's orbiter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been able to successfully establish two-way communication between Chandrayaan-3's lander module and its predecessor Chandrayaan-2's orbiter.

"'Welcome, buddy!' Ch-2 orbiter formally welcomed Ch-3 LM. Two-way communication between the two is established. MOX has now more routes to reach the LM," the space agency posted on X.

The Chandrayaan-2 mission launched on July 22, 2019, consisted of an orbiter, lander and rover to explore the unexplored south pole of the moon.

The orbiter, which has been placed in its intended orbit around the moon, aims to enrich understanding of the moon's evolution and mapping of the minerals and water molecules in the polar regions, using its eight state-of-the-art scientific instruments.

The orbiter payloads include Terrain Mapping Camera - 2, Chandrayaan 2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer (CLASS), Solar X-Ray Monitor, Imaging IR Spectrometer, Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar, Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer - 2, Orbiter High-Resolution Camera and Dual Frequency Radio Science Experiment. "The orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far and shall provide high-resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community. The precise launch and mission management has ensured a long life of almost 7 years instead of the planned one year," states the Chandrayan-2 mission profile.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Phone : 044-28191890 / 28190259,
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **MMA Drugs Kit** to TNMSC Ltd under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of MMA Drugs Kit to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-015/M(P)/MMA-KIT/ TNMSC/2023, Dated. 22.08.2023	22.08.2023 at 3.00 PM to 05.09.2023 upto 3.00 PM	29.08.2023 at 10.00 AM to 05.09.2023 upto 3.00 PM	05.09.2023 at 3.30 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/4643/TENDER/2023

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam
Block No. 24, 2nd Floor, STPI Building, SDA Complex, Kasumpti
Shimla-171009 (H.P.), E-mail- hpkvnshimla@gmail.com

The Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN) as State Skill Development Mission has mandate to implement skill development project having loan no. and title: 3573-IND/Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project. HPKVN invites Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the selection of prospective/eligible bidders for procurement/supply of the Machinery & Equipments and related items against Package No.

HPKVN/(563)/2020/Proc./Op.Part.CoE/Vol-III **Date: 22.08.2023**

Sr. No.	Name of the package	Deadline for receipt of RFQ
1.	HPKVN/ CoE/ Equipment & Furniture/ 01R4- Procurement of Hotel Amenities Equipment.	18th September, 2023
2.	HPKVN/ CoE/ Equipment & Furniture/ 01R6 - Procurement of Food Processing Equipment.	18th September, 2023

Interested Bidders are requested to submit their bids on prescribed "Proforma", which may be downloaded from www.hpkvn.in. The bids must reach to this office on or before 18th September, 2023,01:00 PM along with requisite documents and Demand Draft of Rs. 10,000/- in the name of "Managing Director, Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam, Shimla" towards bid processing fee.

-sd-
Managing Director

Tension after Gandhi statue vandalised at Holehonnur

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Vandalisation of Gandhi's statue at Gandhi Circle led to tension at Holehonnur in Shivamogga district on Monday. The incident came to light in the morning. As the news spread, people gathered at the circle. The police are examining CCTV footage to identify the accused.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ
ಕನೀನಿ. ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ ನವಿಲುತೀರ್ಥ–
591116 ತಾಲೂಕು: ಸವದತ್ತಿ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ : ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ. ರಾಜ್ಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಸಂ; ಕಾ.&ಯಾಂ/ಪಿಬಿ/ದ.ಆ.ಪ್ರ/2023–24/346 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21/08/2023

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Sealed quotations are invited by the under signed on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangaluru from the reputed Firm/Agencies for Consultancy services for Preliminary Survey, investigation, preparation of Preliminary design,drawings,estimates,Detailed Project Report,Package estimate&DTP for Rejuvenation of existing Lift irrigation Schemes of Kenganur,Hosur-Vakkund, Budihal, Jalikoppa,Mallur-matolli,Jakanur,Hebballi, Cholachagudda, Yenagi-Hittanagi,Sunnal,Badli-Katral In Saudatti Taluk,Belagvi District

The Sealed quotations Should reach the office of the undersigned either by post or in person on or before 04/09/2023 at 4.00pm

The agency Should note that the item rates quoted shall be inclusive of all applicable taxes,duties,etc.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
KNNL W&M Division Naviluteertha

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-297/KSMCA/2023-24

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
(A Statutory Authority of Government of India under Architects Act, 1972)
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
website: www.nata.in, www.coa.gov.in

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

REVISION IN ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO B.ARCH. COURSE FOR 2023-24 AND CONDUCT OF 4TH TEST OF NATA 2023

The Council, with the approval of the Central Government has amended the Regulation 4(1) and (2) of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 2020 and amended the eligibility for admission to Architecture course w.e.f. 19.07.2023, as under:

1. "(1) No candidate shall be admitted to architecture course unless she/he has passed 10+2 or equivalent examination with Physics and Mathematics as compulsory subjects along with either Chemistry or Biology or Technical Vocational subject or Computer Science or Information Technology or Informatics Practices or Engineering Graphics or Business Studies with at least 45% marks in aggregate or passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 45% marks in aggregate."
2. "(2) The candidate needs to qualify an aptitude test in architecture conducted either by NTA (i.e. JEE) or "NATA" conducted by the Council of Architecture."

Accordingly, all stakeholders i.e. students, parents, architectural institutions and concerned authorities are required to follow the above eligibility criteria for admission to First Year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course for the academic session 2023-24.

In view of the above revised eligibility criteria, the Council has decided to conduct 4th Test of NATA 2023 Examination on **September 17, 2023 to facilitate the eligible aspirants with one final opportunity to appear for the NATA for the purpose of admission to B.Arch. Degree Course.** The candidates qualifying in the 4th NATA Test shall be eligible for admission to B.Arch. degree course for academic session 2023-2024, irrespective of the fact whether they had appeared in previous Tests of NATA 2023 or not.

It may be noted that **admission of successful candidates in 4th NATA Test shall be only against vacant/ unfilled seats available at various Institutions. Centralized Admission counselling process in the states shall continue and will not be affected by the results of the 4th Test.** For further details on registering for NATA, please visit website www.nata.in.

New Delhi
August 22, 2023

Registrar

Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
(A Government Karnataka Undertaking)
03,04th Floor, Embassy Icon Building, Infantry Road, Bangalore — 560 001
Ph: (080) 22352525. Fax: (080) 22352626

No:KTIL/Y0-1/ BEN /07/202-23 Date: 21/08/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short term Percentage tenders are invited on behalf of Managing Director KTIL, Bangalore by the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited, Engineering Unit, Bangalore coming under KTVG, Head of Account and two cover system the tenderers are required to submit only through e-Procurement portal of government of Karnataka. The details of the tender and calendar of events are available at (e-Procurement Platform) https://kppp.karanataka.gov.in e-procurement tender processing charges and EMD should be paid at e-Procurement platform only.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1	2022-23 Road Improvement works Under NABARD R.I.D.F Tranch-28. (Davangere Dist. From Deverahalli road to Halechannagiri) and (Hiregangur Ramenahalli road to Yaragattihalli road). Indent No: KTIL/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT-1
2	2022-23 Road Improvement works Under NABARD R.I.D.F Tranch-28. Road Improvement work from Bommanahalli Road to Shivagange in Tumkur District. Indent No: KTIL/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT-2
3	Consultancy Service for 3rd Party Inspection Quality assurance for the KTIL works falling under Kalburgi, Belagavi, Mysuru and Bengaluru Divisions in the State of Karnataka. Indent No: KTIL/2023-24/SE0004
4	Road Construction work from N.H. 150A Shanthapura Cross in Surpur Taluk Yadagiri District to Sri Mouneshwara Temple in Tinthani village is 0.00 k.m to 2.00 k.m Indent No: KTIL/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT-3

Date of pre-bid meeting 24.08.2023, 12.00hrs. Last date for submitting proposals: 15.09.2023. 16.00 hrs. Opening of Technical Proposal: 16.09.2023, 17.00 Hrs

Postponement of Calendar of events (if any), subsequent notification, changes, amendments, and Selection / rejection of proposal shall be intimated only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers. KTIL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, and Tender Inviting Authority.

DIPR/CP/JA/998/2023-24

Deep in disarray

Failure to hold Assembly session shows depth of crisis in Manipur

That the Legislative Assembly of Manipur was not convened on Monday, as recommended by the Council of Ministers, is an indication of how grave the crisis gripping the State is. Governor Anusuiya Uikey did not issue the notification summoning the House, even though the Cabinet had advised her on August 4 itself to call for the session on August 21. The delay on the part of Raj Bhavan in issuing the notification is presumably due to the political and law and order situation in the State. Legislators of Kuki ethnicity, across party affiliations, have expressed their inability to attend the Assembly session due to the prevailing atmosphere, as violence continues in parts of the State. It is unlikely that the Governor is unaware of the constitutional position that she is bound by the advice of the government with regard to summoning the Assembly. A Constitution Bench had made this clear in *Nabam Rebia* (2016). Whether the Governor is guided by her own wisdom or the Union government's assessment of the situation, it is difficult to justify the failure to hold the Assembly session as sought by the Council of Ministers. The last session of the Manipur Assembly was held in March, and the House has to meet again before the expiry of six months from its previous sitting. The period ends on September 2.

There have been both political and civil society demands for the Assembly to meet and discuss the violence that broke out early in May over a High Court order that directed the Manipur government to respond to a communication from the Union Ministry for Tribal Affairs on recommending the grant of Scheduled Tribe status to the Meitei community. The delay on the Governor's part in notifying the session casts a shadow on the legitimacy and authority of the government headed by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. The Governor would be well-advised to act on the Cabinet's recommendation. On another issue, there appears to be an unusual delay in the appointment of Justice Siddharth Mridul, a judge of the Delhi High Court, as the Manipur High Court's Chief Justice. The court has been under an Acting Chief Justice for several months now. Reports suggest that the Centre has forwarded the Collegium's recommendation to the State government for its consent. The question arises whether any constitutional functionary in the State is holding back the process. The chain of events set off by an order passed by the Acting Chief Justice has already witnessed much violence and disorder, and the State should not lapse into further constitutional disarray.

Wins and winnings

FIFA Women's World Cup was a showcase for women's sporting events

Every global women's sports competition is more than just a mere sporting spectacle. It is often in the vanguard of creating a more equal society, of seeking to eliminate outdated notions of male exceptionalism and nudging the world at large to embrace broader social reform. The FIFA Women's World Cup, which ended on Sunday following Spain's narrow 1-0 victory over England, forms a crucial part of this movement. Under the dazzling Sydney night sky, a whopping 75,784 fans at Stadium Australia witnessed Spain lift its maiden World Cup to join Germany as one of only two nations to have secured both the men's and women's titles. *The Guardian* reported that an average of 30,000 fans attended each match over the course of a month in Australia and New Zealand and nearly two million tickets – a record – were bought. These are astonishing numbers for a standalone women's event, the kind of which has suffered from administrator and spectator apathy in the past. Much of it was down to the on-field excellence, with the likes of Spain's Aitana Bonmati, the player of the tournament, Olga Carmona, who scored the winning goals for Spain in both the semifinal and final, Japan's Hinata Miyazawa, the highest goal-scorer (5), and England's Mary Earps, the best goalkeeper, mesmerising the audience.

The World Cup also showcased the wide geographic spread of women's football. Where nations from Europe and South America have been the hegemonic forces among men, in the short nine-edition history of the women's event, only four times have the winners come from these two regions – Germany twice, Norway and now Spain. In 2023, Germany, apart from being upset by Colombia, crashed out in the group stage. Japan, the 2011 world champion, hammered eventual winner Spain 4-0 in the preliminary round. Morocco made history by qualifying for the round of 16 while hosts Australia's fourth-place finish was its best ever. Four-time champion United States of America, marshalled by the retiring star Megan Rapinoe, missed the podium for the first time, but it just proved the tournament's overall depth in quality. As Marta, the legendary Brazilian who played her sixth and final World Cup, said, "When I started there were no idols in women's football. Twenty years later, we have become a reference for many women...." To harness this positive energy, governing body FIFA has a lot of heavy-lifting to do. Addressing the massive remuneration gap between men and women – a World Cup prize money purse of $440 million against $152 million – can be a good start in the long road towards normalising sporting excellence by women.

The BRICS test for India's multipolarity rhetoric

Happymon Jacob

teaches at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and is the founder of the Council for Strategic and Defense Research

Once again, New Delhi is back in the thick of global geopolitics of things – chairing summits, navigating tricky Manichaean choices, ducking geopolitical whirlwinds, and negotiating a place at the high table of global governance. The upcoming BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summit in South Africa, from August 22 to August 24, will be an important stress test for Indian diplomacy, and a harbinger of the shape of geopolitics to come.

For sure, the ability of BRICS to reorder or steer the global economy in any significant manner is deeply suspect, its appetite to create economic agreements amongst its own members limited, and its historical capability to influence global geopolitics overestimated. And, as a bloc, it is hardly an attractive investment destination. More so, BRICS today sounds more revisionist and reactive, than proactive or clear headed, on what it wants to do. And yet, it could, going forward, become an entity capable of influencing the future of world politics. The geopolitical developments of the past year or so and the challenges faced by the United Nations system may have given another lease of life to BRICS. BRICS, after all, is also more globally represented than the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the G-7, though less than the G-20 which is dominated by the West. In that sense, the choices that BRICS makes at the summit and thereafter could have major implications for the international system.

Many paths to global governance

That global governance has failed, or that it reeks of deeply undemocratic practices, needs no repetition. If the deeply unrepresentative character of global governance institutions and mechanisms has led to their failure, and there is little possibility of a more inclusive system anytime soon, forums such as BRICS will invariably fill such important institutional vacuum, no matter how inadequate. That 40-odd countries have formally or informally expressed interest in joining an expanded BRICS, just five countries today, is reflective of the deeply-held sense of angst and anger in the global South countries about their place in the world.

At a time of global geopolitical uncertainty, with the global order going through a major churn, middle powers, regional heavyweights and the outliers that are weighing their options, exploring where they belong or trying to belong where they can, would want to utilise forums such as BRICS to make sense of global geopolitical headwinds, hedge or place their bets, and influence the geopolitics around them. For instance, the uncertainties arising out of the Ukraine war and the steady rise of China have clearly provided a new lease of life to the otherwise moribund BRICS.

Not that BRICS or the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will lead to truly democratic global governance or multipolarity (perhaps nothing can); these forums too are replete with competing interests and calculations including inbuilt or unsaid hierarchies. And yet, these very forums could ignite a genuine conversation on making global governance more representative and inclusive. In global governance, more imperfect institutions reflecting the realities of today are better than one imperfect institutional structure that is alien to the world of today. International politics should not be the place for hegemonic perfection, but of democratic imperfections.

> The challenge before New Delhi is to choose between a China-centric or a West-centric world order, or balance the two

New Delhi's dilemmas

For India, the geopolitical choices today are neither crystal clear nor easy to make. For one, where does India belong in the global geopolitical landscape? There is, for instance, a tendency in the West to view India's membership of BRICS and the SCO in the context of the Ukraine war and the United States/West versus the standoff with Russia. An oft-repeated question is: "How can India be a part of the Quad [Australia, Japan, the U.S., India], G-20, G-7 and BRICS, SCO and global South at the same time?" That is a deeply ahistorical view. India's active participation in non-western multilateral forums such as BRICS, SCO and global South must also be seen as India's response to the undemocratic and inequitable governance structures of post-Second World War institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the UNSC. At the same time, India's objective is not (and should not be) to create or belong to an anti-U.S./West bloc either.

Developmentally, historically and geographically, India belongs to BRICS, SCO, and the global South. But India does not only belong to them. More so, China's overwhelming presence in them makes it a less than perfect geopolitical choice for India. Structurally and aspirationally, the G-20, G-7, Quad and the like are where New Delhi is headed. But India's accommodation in the most influential among those forums is a long shot. India, as a result, is located right in the middle of an emerging geopolitical faultline with interests on either side, welcomed by either side, but fully belonging to neither. This could either make India a bridge between the great divides or its lack of loyalty to neither could make it a victim of emerging geopolitical contestations. The sharper the faultline becomes, the harder it will be for New Delhi to balance it.

One of the major dangers of the current churn in global geopolitics is the rise of competing blocs in the international system. With China and Russia aligning their global interests, the organisations they are part of whose membership they are attempting to enhance, are likely to be pitted against the status quo order led by the U.S. and its allies. India has traditionally opposed the creation of blocs as they go against the fundamental spirit of equitable global governance and multipolarity.

Multipolarity, in the Indian historical imagination, is about equity, inclusion and representation, not bloc rivalry, ideological or otherwise. However, even if New Delhi vehemently opposes bloc politics, it will continue to get drawn into it.

The China question

The question that New Delhi must ask every step of the way as it pursues a multipolar world and alternative mechanisms for global governance is whether (or not) it helps boost the rise of China globally. No doubt, a multi-polar world requires strong, alternative global forums, and perhaps even attempts at de-dollarisation. But those very forums will go on to aid the rise of China and the strengthening of the yuan. To think de-dollarisation would lead to strengthening of the rupee is delusional as is the belief that China and India share larger geopolitical interests. They may find value in the instrumental utility of non-western institutions, but their end goals are fundamentally divergent. Given its size, economic influence and the spread of the Belt and Road Initiative and diplomatic bandwidth, China will influence an expanded BRICS; and India, with its limited resources, would struggle to match this. Paradoxically, and perhaps tragically, the more India helps strengthen non-western institutions and frameworks, thereby weakening the post-Second World War order, the more it helps, albeit indirectly, China's revisionist agenda. The challenge before India is to choose between a China-centric world order or a West- centric world order, or balance the two. If the latter is too preachy for India, the former is too Machiavellian. And balancing is going to get tougher.

India must, therefore, keep its eyes firmly fixed on its goal: promote a more representative and equitable global governance on the one hand and ensure that such an order does not end up undercutting its own national interests. While India must moderate the influence of China in non-western forums, in doing so, it must also make sure not to alienate other countries in the global South who may see merit in China's efforts at expanding the membership of those forums.

The geopolitical predicament this poses before New Delhi is hardly an easy one to navigate: asserting itself in non-western global forums such as BRICS and the SCO, checking the steadily growing Chinese influence in them, and dealing with western normative expectations while negotiating a place for itself in Eurocentric forums such as the UNSC and the G-7. It must do all this simultaneously.

The Saudi Arabia-UAE divide becomes public

Talmiz Ahmad

is a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates

In mid-July, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that earlier in December, the Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman (known as MbS), had told a group of Saudi journalists that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has "stabbed us in the back" and had threatened, "They will see what I can do." He had added that his retaliation would be "worse than what I did with Qatar", recalling the harsh four-year political and economic blockade of the kingdom's neighbour from 2017.

The Crown Prince was possibly irked by the absence of the UAE ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ), for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit meeting with the visiting Chinese President, Xi Jinping.

Obvious differences in regional politics

This surprising outburst signals the end of the camaraderie between the Saudi Crown Prince and the UAE President. When MbS first came into public life with his father's accession to the throne in 2015, it was obvious that he had a special bond with Mohammed bin Zayed; many observers believed that the Saudi prince, in his late twenties then, saw the more experienced MbZ as a mentor.

The two royals bonded their countries as strategic partners. They were partners in the war in Yemen, worked together to strengthen al-Sisi's regime in Egypt, viewed Iran as a regional threat, disliked the Muslim Brotherhood, and then collaborated closely to implement the blockade of Qatar. In 2019, they also subverted the nascent democratic process in Sudan by backing the armed forces against the civilian Prime Minister.

But, over the last few years, their differences have become obvious. In July 2017, the UAE abruptly rejected the proposal to cut oil production put forward by "OPEC +" on the ground that its base production needed to be significantly increased. Abu Dhabi was then investing heavily in augmenting its oil production to monetise its potential to the maximum extent.

> Competition rather than cooperation is likely to define the ties between the two neighbours in political, economic and logistical areas

Differences then became apparent in several areas of regional politics. The UAE abruptly withdrew its troops from Yemen in 2019, but continued to pursue a separate agenda of supporting the secessionist movement in the south and mobilising local fighters backing the independence of the south. The UAE also expanded its maritime footprint in the region by taking control of Yemeni ports and Socotra Island in the Gulf of Aden, and Perim Island at the mouth of the Bab al-Mandab.

The UAE then established bases in Eritrea and Somaliland, thus putting in place an unassailable strategic network that links the Gulf with the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, was left to do the fighting in Yemen, with little to show for its efforts over eight years.

The kingdom also experienced setbacks in Syria, where Russian intervention in 2015 ensured that the Assad government would not be toppled, and vis-à-vis Iran, when the United States failed to respond to repeated missile and drone attacks in 2019. This parlous scenario encouraged Saudi Arabia to pursue de-escalation and dialogue in the region. This started with the lifting of the Qatar blockade in January 2021 and initiation of the dialogue with Iran in Baghdad in April 2021. The UAE was a reluctant participant in both initiatives: it maintains a studied coolness towards Qatar and is pursuing its own engagement with Iran.

The UAE also normalised ties with Israel in August 2020, thus publicly dumping the Saudi-sponsored Arab Peace Initiative that requires Israel to accommodate Palestinian interests before Arab states normalise relations. Later, the kingdom initiated the readmission of Syria into the Arab League in May this year, but MbZ failed to attend the summit.

In Sudan, the two Gulf neighbours are now backing different generals – while the kingdom supports Army chief al-Burhan, the UAE is backing militia leader Dagalo, thus prolonging the destructive civil conflict. The UAE is also said to be uncomfortable with the speed with which Saudi Arabia normalised ties with Iran in March this year.

Competition in the same sectors

Saudi-UAE competition has now touched domestic areas as well. The two countries are seeking regional primacy in the same sectors – global business, tourism, finance and technology. Saudi Arabia is also wanting to become the principal hub for regional trade, thus challenging the UAE which is presently the dominant player. Both countries are pursuing ambitious plans to develop ports in the Gulf and the Red Sea and emerge as the major presence in the logistical connectivity projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Though much smaller in size, the UAE has made it clear it will not be the kingdom's junior partner in the political, economic and logistical arenas. It compensates for its small size with the vision, dynamism and ambition of its leaders, its head start in global interactions in the areas of trade, connectivity, tourism, finance and technology, and the attractive image as a business-friendly and people-friendly locale it has successfully cultivated over several decades.

Hence, competition rather than cooperation is likely to define ties between the two Gulf neighbours. However, the kingdom's leadership position in the Arab and the Islamic world and its central place in global energy, business and finance will ensure that its preeminent place in regional and world politics and economics will remain unchallenged.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CWC revamp

The political prospects of the grand old party will not change in the next general election by merely revamping its working committee. The Modi government's failures when it comes to price rise, unemployment, petroleum prices, black money and so on should be utilised by the Congress to restore its past glory. Further, the party needs to market the good work done during its regime. The Congress should also gracefully accept the mistakes it committed and seek an apology from the nation.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Battered hills

The devastation caused by heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is made worse by the utter indifference to environmental changes taking place globally. As Tikender Singh Panwar implies (Opinion page, August 21), governmental bodies responsible for planning and enforcement do not have the requisite knowledge of the surrounding ecology to carry out sustainable development. Every developmental agency will have to be "climate smart" in its policy recommendations. Failure will only result in these areas becoming an "environmental basket-case", as writer Ramachandra Guha has said during his recent lecture in the Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu, August 21).

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

Victory in Sydney

Spain's 1-0 win over England in the FIFA Women's World Cup ('Sport' page, August 21) was a good reward for a sporting nation whose female footballers have already achieved much. The fixture has demonstrated progress in achieving equality for the women's game and women's sport in general, but much needs to be done. Many professional sports women experience disparities in pay, media coverage and sponsorship.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Decoding the President's speech

Vivek Katju

is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer

In her address to the nation on the eve of this Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu said, "Our Constitution is our guiding document". At this time of great political and ideological contestation, it is reassuring to hear the Head of State forthrightly say these words. This is because they connote that neither the ideologies nor the politics of different political parties and formations should go beyond the boundaries set by the Constitution. Besides, this crucial sentence in the address was a simple and lucid declaration that India would steadfastly remain a constitutional democracy.

President Murmu struck many notes in her address which represent India's current national needs as well its aspirations for a better world. Among these she focused on living in harmony with nature, the empowerment of women, and the value of education in social transformation. Her words on education were based on her own experience. As she put it, "Having been a teacher also, I have realised that education is the greatest tool of social empowerment". The President also dwelt on India's economic progress. More importantly, even as she encouraged the nation, she reminded it of the long distance that remains to be covered till we achieve the aspirations of the leaders of the freedom movement.

Ideological contestation

Amidst points covered in her address, two deserve special analysis. One goes to the heart of the present ideological contestation; the other to the Constitution as a "guiding document" and the aspiration, as the President eloquently said, of moving forward towards "making India an inclusive and developed nation by the year 2047".

The first point. Government leaders have mentioned, both in domestic and foreign forums, that India has suffered 1000 years of slavery. This is in keeping with the ruling dispensation's interpretation of Indian history of what is commonly referred to as the 'Medieval Period'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day speech: "...Our country was invaded 1,000-1,200 years ago. A small kingdom and its King were defeated. However, we would not have known that this event would lead India into a thousand years of subjugation". It is not clear which invasion Mr. Modi had in mind. What is important is the reference to "a thousand years of subjugation".

In the past, government leaders did not venture into stigmatising the medieval era as one of foreign domination and enslavement. Such a categorisation was limited to the colonial period. Consequently, liberation from foreign rule meant freedom from British rule. President Murmu seems to have favoured this traditional interpretation. She avoided any mention of "a thousand years of subjugation". Her choice of words indicates that, for her foreign domination means the period of British rule. This is illustrated by the following formulation in her address: "India is the mother of Democracy and since ancient times we had democratic institutions functioning at the grass roots. But long years of colonial rule wiped them out... We won freedom from foreign rule... With our independence began the era of foreign rulers withdrawing from many colonies and colonisation drew close to its end".

Now, the second point. President Murmu wisely reminded all Indians that their identity as "citizens of India" was above all their other identities. At the same time, she recognised that "each of us has many identities". In view of the vastness of India and its huge population – we are now the world's most populous country – it cannot but be so, but as the President said, they are subsumed within our Indian identity. Indeed, can there really be a higher status for those who live in this great land than that of "citizen of India"? Among the identities the President mentioned were caste, creed, language, region, family, and profession. What was significant was that she omitted religion as an identity marker. She did not even use the word faith. It can be argued that creed embraces religion or faith. However, while a creed may form part of a religion, the two are not synonymous. This is also made clear by the President's speech in Hindi when she used the word "panth" instead of "dharma".

The guiding document

The use of these different words is part of the ideological contestation underway. As the President said, the Constitution is the nation's guiding document and the terminology used in it should prevail. This writer would humbly submit that as the first citizen of the country, she should follow the words used in the Constitution. The Constitution mentions religion and faith, not creed. And the Hindi translation of religion in the official Hindi version of the document is dharma, not panth. Dharma is also the word used in Hindi for faith, which finds mention in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Can the submissions put forward here regarding the use of words be categorised as merely quibbling or nitpicking? This writer believes that this is not so because some words acquire the position of 'code words' and become markers for ideologies. Besides, words matter, especially when used by the highest constitutional authority of the country. The President's life story is truly inspirational. In the midst of great personal tragedies, she has maintained a calmness that reflects that she has imbibed what Krishna taught Arjuna before the war began. The nation needs from her equanimity, care and constitutional precision amid the raging political and ideological battles.

Words matter, especially when used by the highest constitutional authority of the country

The opaqueness of TANSCHE

The body in charge of developing higher education has come under criticism

STATE OF PLAY

R. Sujatha
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A few weeks ago, the Tamil Nadu government's Higher Education Department went back on its policy that all colleges in the State should adopt a "uniform syllabus". The new order said that autonomous colleges need not follow a "uniform syllabus" if they did not wish to. This policy was also endorsed by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE), the overarching body that formulates programmes, coordinates with universities on the implementation of these programmes, and is empowered to promote cooperation and coordination among institutions to improve higher education and research.

TANSCHE was set up in 1992 and is mandated to comprise 15 members. It is supposed to meet every three months, according to the Act that set up the TANSCHE. However, this has not been followed by the Council. Teachers in universities are angry that even though the Council has not functioned as per the Act, the government has urged them to follow the syllabus that TANSCHE has drafted.

The Council's website is defunct. The last update to the website was made more than a decade ago and the officials listed on the website have since retired. Ever since TANSCHE was formed, the officials have been political appointees, especially the member-secretary and the vice-chairman, though efforts have been made to ensure that the persons had the calibre to hold the post.

With no website providing details of the members in the Council, university professors are concerned about whether the member-secretary and the vice-chairman have even constituted a Council as mandated by the Act, who its members are, and whether they have attended meetings.

Educators say political issues, which are beyond the purview of the officials of the Higher Education Department, forced the former vice-chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University to step down from the post of vice-chairman at TANSCHE in 2013-14. It was then that the Council began to slide in its functioning.

However, a government document from 2018 showed that despite dwindling trust, the Council managed to maintain its credibility. It met and discussed key issues such as converting constituent colleges into government institutions, sexual harassment cases in colleges, additional intake of students, and developing higher education schemes.

The excuse that for three years the Council could not function owing to the COVID-19 pandemic is unviable as the policy notes of 2021-22 and 2022-23 offer a detailed view of the work it had undertaken despite the pandemic. The latest 2023-24 policy note, however, has devoted just one page to the activities of the Council. This, when TANSCHE had announced that it proposed to develop the "uniform syllabus" last year. The project mandates that the officials seek consensus from vice-chancellors and senior faculty from the universities under its purview. But professors point out that most teachers engaged to frame the syllabus were from Chennai. They say hardly any information was shared about the faculty invited to participate in the exercise. The opposition to the "uniform syllabus" did not come just from senior faculty but from vice-chancellors of universities as well, an indication that the council members had little understanding of their own roles.

Each year the Council receives an annual grant of ₹25 crore for research by college faculty. Another ₹50,000 is granted to students who show potential for research. But the annual policy document of the department for 2023-24 provides few details of the work done by the council in the past year. According to the document, the Council gave ₹25 lakh to the Directorate of Technical Education to prepare curriculum for polytechnic colleges. The document further states that it conducted a two-day workshop on 'Recent Trends in Research'.

The absence of a citizen's charter, given that it is a public body and is being funded from the taxpayer's money, is further fuelling suspicion that the Council has lost its relevance because of political intervention. It is now incumbent on the government to assuage the concerns of the faculty in higher education institutions in Tamil Nadu by increasing transparency and accountability of TANSCHE.

The superpower of OTT platforms

Same Language Subtitling on all Indian language content is an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to reading literacy and language learning

DATA POINT

Brij Kothari & Nisha Vernekar

On August 8, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'State of Elementary Education in Rural India' report which shows that schoolchildren spend most of their screen time playing games, watching movies or listening to songs. Accessing study materials and online tutorials featured way down the order. **Chart 1** shows the findings from the survey. Of the 49.3% of parents whose children used gadgets, 76.7% said that their children mainly used mobile phones to play video games, over 56% said that their children used phones to watch movies, 35% said they used phones to access online materials, and only 19% said they used phones to attend online tutorials.

Instead of seeing this trend as a cause for concern, it can be viewed as a promising opportunity where education meets entertainment. Traditional media consumption has increasingly transitioned to OTT platforms, which have the ability to make meaningful contributions to reading literacy and language learning.

Captions were invented in the U.S. in the early 1970s to make television accessible to people with various degrees of hearing impairments. Viewers without hearing disabilities also came to appreciate the value of captions and same language subtitling (SLS) as it helped them follow the dialogues better. Caption and SLS are now available in around 40-50 countries. But a major benefit of SLS – improving mass reading literacy – has not been leveraged by any country yet.

The PlanetRead survey estimates that of the billion "literate" people in the country, 600 million are weak readers. The survey, conducted in four Hindi-speaking States, measured literacy using two methods – the census method which relies on self-reporting and another which required people to read a Grade 2-level text.

An Ormax OTT audience report showed that India's OTT base in 2022 was 424 million people, with a nearly 80% penetration in metros. Future OTT growth will predominantly come from rural areas where the preference tilts toward Indian language content.

SLS on all Indian language content is, therefore, a massive opportunity. Universalisation of SLS may act as an automatic reading practice in the viewer's language. The Billion Readers initiative of the PlanetRead organisation is scaling SLS on TV and streaming platforms to achieve that. Moreover, under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, all OTT platforms are required to offer SLS with their content. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting framed the Accessibility Standards, 2019 mandating SLS on half the content on TV by 2025.

PlanetRead conducted a survey of 2,673 movies/shows produced in 2022-23 that are on India's top five OTT platforms - Hotstar, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Zee5, and Sony Liv. Almost all English language content on OTTs is available with English subtitles. In contrast, SLS is missing from most Indian language content **(Chart 2)**.

Netflix leads SLS implementation in Indian languages with one-third of the content having SLS **(Chart 3)**. Amazon Prime is a distant second (10.1%), while the other big OTT platforms have barely made a start.

SLS penetration is higher on content produced by the platforms themselves. Of the original Indian language content produced by Netflix and Amazon Prime, SLS is on 92.3% and 81.8% of content, respectively **(Chart 4).** However, Hotstar, Sony Liv, and Zee5 are yet to implement SLS in their original Indian language content. This suggests that if content producers were to include SLS and caption files, OTT platforms may include these features.

Watch and learn

The charts are based on data sourced from the State of Elementary Education in Rural India report and the PlanetRead survey

Photo credit: PlanetRead

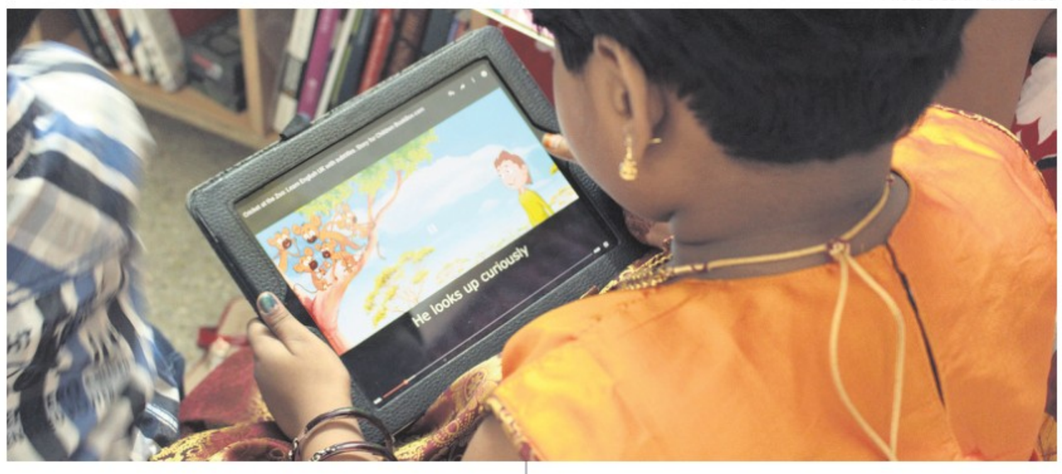


Chart 1 | About 76.7% of parents said that their children mainly used mobile phones to play video games

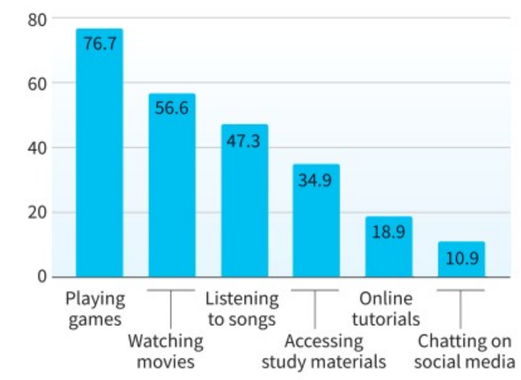


Chart 2 | Same language subtitling (SLS) on Indian language and English content (as a % of total content)

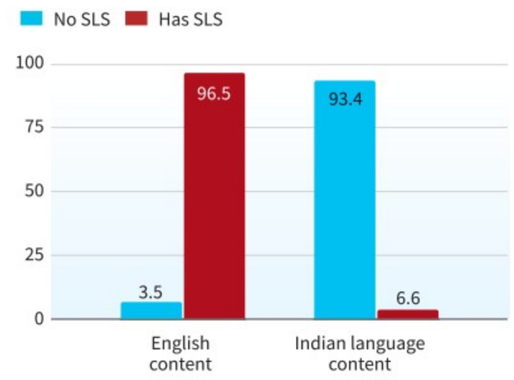


Chart 3 | Availability of SLS on Indian language content across OTT platforms (as a % of total content)

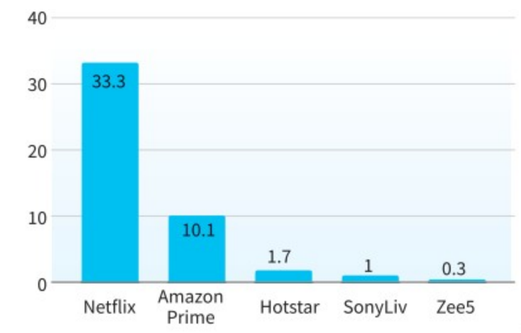
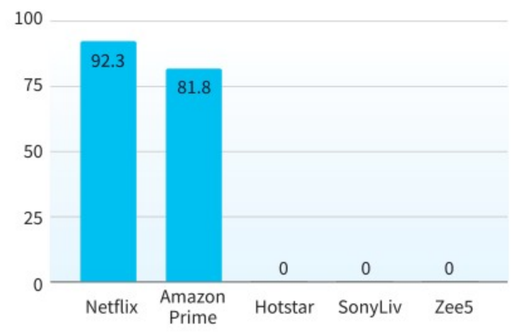


Chart 4 | Availability of SLS on original Indian language content produced by OTT platforms (as a % of total content)



Brij Kothari and Nisha Vernekar are with the Billion Readers (BIRD) initiative at PlanetRead.
BIRD is supported by Co-Impact and the Rohini and Nandan Nilekani Philanthropies

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1973

IIT admissions govt. enquiries into complaints

New Delhi, Aug. 22: The Union Minister of Education, Prof. Nurul Hasan, to-day expressed his "concern" in the Rajya Sabha that representation of students from certain States in the five Indian Institutes of Technology was "very low indeed". Prof. Hasan was replying to Mr. P. Subramania Menon, who had complained that only two students from Kerala were selected for IIT this year. Even these students could not get admission because they could not get their pre-degree certificates in time, he said. Prof. Hasan assured the House, that he making enquiries to find out how this had happened. Sometime the States board of secondary education did not announce the results in time. Also the structure of courses in the secondary education in the States was not on the all India pattern. In spite of the recommendation by the Union Education Ministry, the State Governments had not been able to apply their mind to bring about these changes, particularly in science and mathematics courses. He said he proposed to have further consultations with the State Education Ministers on this question. Replying to Mr. Krishan Kant, Prof. Hasan told the House about the action taken on some of the complaints received on the working of the Indian Institute of Technology. The students of Kanpur institute had passed a resolution that the institute was in a state of decay and in all probability be ruined unless matters were looked into immediately. The board of governors took notice of this and had appointed a number of teams to look into the functioning of the institution. In regard to the IIT, Madras, he said a charter of demand was forwarded by the employees association.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1923

Spanish defeat

Madrid, August 20: Military critics attribute the recent Spanish reverse in Morocco to their holding a big salient. The Spanish base at Afrau on the coast is now isolated and Tifarauin has been surrounded. The garrison is holding out and reinforcements are on their way thither. A Spanish Military Aeroplane manned by two officers crashed today in rebel territory near Tifarauin. Their fate is not known.

From Page One

Manipur fails to hold Assembly session

Referring to the August 4 recommendation by the Manipur Cabinet, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Governor not calling the Special Session of the Assembly "is further evidence that the constitutional machinery has simply broken down" in the State. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was preoccupied with "refurbishing his self-styled Vishwaguru role" and the Home Minister (Amit Shah) was "busy electioneering" to let the "agony of the people of Manipur" continue "unabated".

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an apex body of the Meiteis, had in July demanded a Special Session of the Assembly and set August 5 as the deadline for it.

The organisation also submitted a memorandum at the Prime Minister's Office on August 5 seeking a Special Session for adopting a resolution in the House against compromising the State's territorial integrity. This followed the demand of several Kuki-Zomi organisations, specifically the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, for a separate administration for the tribal people. The demand included set-ups similar to an Assembly apart from the posting of officials of the rank of Chief Secretary and Director-General of Police.

All 10 Kuki MLAs, including seven of the BJP, refused to take part in the Special "COCOMI-dictated" Assembly Session citing security reasons.

SC to form a new Bench to hear Cauvery issue

This was 37.971 tmcft in addition to the demand of around 24,000 cusecs, in the month of August.

A direction was given to Karnataka on August 10 to release from its reservoirs 15,000 cusecs at Billigundulu on August 11 for 15 days.

"Unfortunately, even this quantum of water was arbitrarily reduced to 10,000 cusecs by the CWMA in its 22nd meeting held on August 11 at the instance of Karnataka. Regretfully, even this amount of 10,000 cusecs to be ensured at Billigundulu by releasing such quantum of water from the KRS and Kabini reservoirs has not been complied with by Karnataka," the Tamil Nadu application has said.

CJI queries govt. on SOP and judicial review

Mr. Mehta flatly denied any intention on the government's part to modify the courts' power of judicial review through the draft SOP. He said the draft focused on how senior government officials, including the Chief Secretaries, were being summoned by courts for the slightest reason.

Reserving the case for orders, Chief Justice Chandrachud agreed to frame "broad yardsticks" on the issue of calling government officials to court. The Chief Justice also found several important points worth consideration in the draft SOP, including a proposed bar on courts from summoning officials when the case was still pending in appeal.

The SOP also highlighted how officials were pulled up by judges for not following a dress code while visiting courts. "Government officials are not officers of the court and there should be no objection to their appearing in a decent work dress unless such appearance is unprofessional or unbecoming of her/his position," the draft SOP reasoned.

The Chief Justice made it clear that the Supreme Court would restrict its order only to the aspect of issue of summons to government officials, and nothing else.

From daily wager to medical student

"My three younger brothers had started working, one as a mason, one as a motor mechanic, and the third as an agricultural labourer." He got admission in the B.Sc. Chemistry graduate degree programme, but dropped out in 2008 and returned to the village, so he too could become an earning member, taking up cultivation.

"I toiled hard in the field, but I only got a daily wage of ₹100, and so migrated to Kerala in 2012 to work in a brick kiln," Mr. Ataka said. The first few months in Perumbavoor did not pay him enough, so he shifted to a matchbox manufacturing unit in Kottayam. Upon his return to Thuapadi in 2014, Mr. Ataka took up agricultural labour again.

"In 2021, I joined a training course and started purchasing National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books from Berhampur for preparation for the medical entrance examination," he said. In 2022, he passed the examination, but again a lack of funds came in his way. He did not even go to counselling. In 2023, he cracked NEET again, securing an all-India rank of 7,18,996, and a State rank of 3,902.

Determined not to let the opportunity slip again, Mr. Ataka approached a money lender in his village to borrow ₹37,950, the admission fee. In what came as a surprise, the money lender said he would not charge an interest.

This time, family members have decided to back Mr. Ataka and make sure that he returns a doctor. "I have seen people dying of diseases because of the lack of doctors in my village," he said.

SC panel flags loss of essential documents of people in Manipur

The Justice Gita Mittal Committee appointed by the top court submits three reports; it suggests appointment of a nodal officer to take charge of the reconstruction of documents; it seeks substantial improvement in the compensation scheme

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed committee chaired by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal on Monday said the reconstruction of thousands of essential documents lost or destroyed in the violence which rocked Manipur since May is the first step that needs to be taken to nurse the State back to health.

Paramilitary personnel firing tear gas to disperse the villagers protesting against Central security forces in Manipur. ANI

The committee has filed three separate reports in the Supreme Court after meeting stakeholders on August 19. The committee headed by Justice Mittal also includes Justices Shalini Phansalkar Joshi and Asha Menon, both former High Court judges.

A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had entrusted to the all-woman committee the task of providing the "healing touch" to Manipur by "supervising, intervening, and monitoring relief and rehabilitation, restoration of homesteads, religious places of worships, etc." The Chief Justice had said the committee, through its work, would endeavour to re-instil the Manipur people's belief in the rule of law.

First report

"The first of the three reports submitted by the committee highlights the loss of essential documentation of the residents of Manipur who have been dishoused... The committee suggests the appointment of a nodal officer to take charge of the reconstruction of these documents," Chief Justice Chandrachud had said, after perusing the reports.

He said the lost documents include Aadhaar cards. "Benefits are now distributed through the modalities of the Aadhaar card... That is also the link to bank accounts," the Chief Justice observed.

The Chief Justice said the committee's second report concerned the Manipur Victim Compensation Scheme (MVCS).

"The committee says the MVCS needs to be substantially improved," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed the lawyers for both the petitioners and the State of Manipur.

The Bench said the MVCS should be in the same league as the schemes framed by the National Legal Services Authority. The committee flagged that a victim of Manipur violence was not even considered eligible for benefits under MVCS if he or she had received welfare from another scheme.

The court said there is no such absolute bar in other States. "In other States, if a victim has got benefits under any other scheme, that fact will be taken into consideration while deciding the amount of compensation under this scheme," Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked.

The Chief Justice said the committee reports identify core areas in which work needs to be done in the State. These include rehabilitation of women victims of violence, comprehensive psychological assistance and mental healthcare, medical care and health, relief camps, and data reporting and monitoring. The committee said it has also identified domain experts whose help it would require in these fields.

The court posted the case for Friday, saying it would pass certain procedural directions to facilitate the work of the committee in aspects including administrative assistance, funding, necessary publicity by setting up a web portal, and other infrastructural requirements.

CPI delegation to visit relief camps in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Communist Party of India led by party general secretary D. Raja landed in Manipur capital Imphal on Monday for a four-day visit. The State has been on the boil for more than three months now.

Last week, a delegation led by CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury had visited the strife-torn State.

The CPI delegation consists of Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam, the party's national secretaries K. Narayana and Rama Krushna Panda, and Asomi Gogoi, senior leader from Assam. "Our delegation will interact with all sections of society. We will be visiting relief camps both in valley and hill areas. And on the last day, we will call on Manipur Governor Anusiya Uikey," Mr. Raja said.

On Wednesday, the delegation will also participate in the 75th Foundation Day celebrations of the CPI.

SC criticises Gujarat HC for its 'counterblast' in abortion petition by rape survivor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed strong displeasure at the Gujarat High Court's "counterblast" to its criticism about the manner in which a 25-year-old rape survivor's plea for abortion was handled by the High Court.

The top court had held a special session on Saturday, August 19, on an appeal filed by the woman, seeking an urgent hearing of her plea to medically terminate the pregnancy, which was already nearing 28 weeks.

A Special Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, which heard the case on August 19, immediately ordered the woman to be medically examined and scheduled the case on Monday for orders.

The Saturday hearing had seen the Bench criticise the Gujarat High Court for adjourning the case for 12 whole days, defeating the woman's race against time to get an abortion, and eventually dismiss it.

On Monday, Justices Nagarathna and Bhuyan were informed by lawyers that the Gujarat High Court had convened a *suo motu* hearing in the same case, shortly after the Supreme Court hearing ended on Saturday.

The top court Bench was informed that the High Court had passed an order to "clarify" that the adjournment was given to obtain her view on whether she was willing to give her child into State custody.

This upset the Bench even more. Justice Bhuyan said an unjust condition could not be perpetuated on a rape survivor. "How can you force the rape survivor to undergo pregnancy?" Justice Bhuyan asked.

Justice Nagarathna questioned the very need for the High Court to convene a *suo motu* hearing in a case it had already dismissed, that too, shortly after the Supreme Court had heard it in appeal.

"We do not appreciate the counterblast by the High Court to the order of the Supreme Court. What is happening in the High Court of Gujarat?" Justice Nagarathna asked in open court.

The Bench said it was not targeting a particular judge but questioning the procedure followed in such a time-sensitive case.

Plea allowed

The top court, however, refrained from recording anything adverse in its order against the High Court while allowing the plea for medical termination of the pregnancy.

The Bench noted that a woman has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity. It said pregnancy caused by a sexual assault was injurious to the mental health of the survivor.

Naga council opposes demand by Kuki groups

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to demands by the Kuki-Zo community for a separate administration in Manipur, the United Naga Council on Monday issued a statement, opposing the inclusion of alleged "disputed" territory, which includes areas that were in Chandel and Senapati districts before they were carved out, as part of the proposed administration.

The UNC Manipur said there was no Anglo-Kuki War in 1917-19, calling it a rebellion that ended in massacres of Nagas living in Ukhrul, Chandel, and Tamenglong. It further said that Kukis were "distorting history" in a bid to "legitimise their imagined Kuki homeland within the Naga ancestral homeland". The UNC said its statement was a reaction to several representations by Kuki-Zo civil society organisations and MLAs seeking a separate administration.

Delhi government official, wife arrested in POCSO Act case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday arrested Premoday Khakha, 51, a senior official in the Delhi government's Women and Child Department, for allegedly raping a minor girl for several months two years ago, and forcing her to terminate her pregnancy with abortion pills, officers said. His wife, Seema Rani, 52, was also arrested in the case.

Premoday Khakha and his wife Seema Rani. PTI

The statement of the victim was also recorded before a magistrate under Cr.PC Section 164, a senior police officer said.

Mr. Khakha was suspended from his post of Assistant Director in the department by Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar on the orders of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Disciplinary proceedings are also being contemplated against the official, Mr. Kumar said in the order. A case was lodged at the Burari police station on August 13 against the couple. They were booked under the IPC Sections pertaining to rape, criminal intimidation, insulting a woman's modesty, causing hurt, causing miscarriage without consent, criminal conspiracy, and common intention, along with the relevant Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The minor began staying at Mr. Khakha's house after her father passed away in 2020. He offered to be her guardian and informed her mother he would take care of her.

All eyes on possible Xi-Modi meet as PM reaches S. Africa today

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi lands in South Africa on Tuesday to attend the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, all eyes are on whether he will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in an effort to resolve the three-year-old stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

On Monday, speculation over the meeting grew, after Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said that the PM's itinerary was still being worked out, but did not explicitly deny the possibility that the two leaders would meet on the sidelines of various BRICS events, beginning with a Leaders' Retreat on Tuesday evening. Reports last week, when LAC commanders held talks on two occasions and issued a cordial joint statement as they sought a breakthrough on issues like disengagement in remaining Ladakh sectors, de-escalation, and patrolling rights, had also fuelled the speculation.

"The host country South Africa has invited a large number of guest countries, besides of course BRICS members (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) who will be present there. The PM's schedule, in terms of bilateral meetings with those leaders who would be present in South Africa is still being developed," said Mr. Kwatra, when asked at a briefing whether Mr. Modi would have a scheduled bilateral with Mr. Xi, which would be the first such meeting between them since the two leaders met at the BRICS summit in Brazil in 2019.

Mr. Kwatra also sidestepped a question on what would be the messaging if the two leaders failed to hold a bilateral meeting in South Africa.

Since the LAC stand-off and killings at Galwan, there have been talks between Foreign Ministers,

Security personnel deployed at the Sandton Convention Centre ahead of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg. REUTERS

Defence Ministers and NSA-level officials of both countries, but Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi have not sat down for talks, or spoken over the phone.

In September 2022, the two leaders stood next to each other and attended a Leaders' Lunch at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, but did not hold formal talks.

In November 2022, the two leaders were seen talking at a G-20 banquet in Bali after Mr. Modi walked up to Mr. Xi and "exchanged greetings", but it was only in July this year, a full eight months later, that the External Affairs Ministry admitted that Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi had discussed boundary issues, after the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) inserted a line into a readout of a meeting between NSA Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi about a "consensus" reached between the leaders.

Political pressure

The External Affairs Ministry's reticence, chalked up to political pressure against a deal with China back home, could mean that the two leaders could be selective about releasing information about any meetings they hold in South Africa. In the run-up to the BRICS summit, leaders of the Opposition Congress and the Shiv Sena have issued statements questioning "land taken by China" in the past few years, including one by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in Ladakh, where he said locals were affected by "land lost".

Apart from the LAC issue, any bilateral India-China meeting will be important in resolving issues over the G-20 Joint Declaration statement, which China and Russia are blocking at present, to be released at the G-20 summit less than three weeks away.

Mr. Modi will land at Johannesburg's Waterkloof Air Force Base on Tuesday afternoon, and attend a BRICS Business Forum Leaders' dialogue followed by the BRICS Leaders' Retreat, with the Presidents of Brazil, China and South Africa. Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the summit, appearing via videoconference, given concerns over an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant against him.

On Wednesday, Mr. Modi will be part of a day-long BRICS summit with the other leaders, and on Thursday, he will attend the BRICS-Africa outreach and BRICS-Plus meetings with more than 50 leaders from Africa and other parts of the Global South.

Mr. Kwatra said India had "positive intent and an open mind" on the subject of BRICS expansion, with the South African host releasing a list of 23 countries that have now formally applied for BRICS membership.

"This is a testament to the vitality and influence of the BRICS cooperation mechanism," Mr. Xi wrote in an op-ed piece on Monday, as he landed in South Africa for a State visit ahead of the summit.

More jobs available, people moving to higher income groups, says Modi

Prime Minister says the economy has reached number five from the 10 position in nine years, and citizens are coming forward in large numbers to pay their taxes as they knew that every rupee is being spent on the nation's development

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the income tax return (ITR) data showed that the average income of Indians had tripled during his tenure, reflecting a robustness across sectors and a rise in number of employment opportunities.

"According to ITR data, the average income, which was around ₹4 lakh in 2014, has increased to around ₹13 lakh in 2023. In India, the number of those who have moved from the lower income group has also increased," Mr. Modi said while addressing the Madhya Pradesh Rozgar Mela through video link.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually gave appointment letters to 5,580 teachersa at the Madhya Pradesh Rozgar Mela. ANI

He said that citizens were coming forward in large numbers to pay taxes honestly as they knew that every rupee of their tax was being spent for the development of the country. The economy, which was at the number 10 spot before 2014, had reached number five [a September 2022 development], he said.

Teacher recruitment

At the Rozgar Mela, appointment letters were given to 5,580 teachers. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan handed over the letters on stage to 10 of the teachers.

The Prime Minister said that in the past three years, more than 50,000 teachers had been recruited in Madhya Pradesh and that the State government deserved praise. Noting that the new recruits would play a key role in the implementation of the National Education Policy which would contribute to the nation's development, Mr. Modi emphasised that equal importance has been given in the NEP to traditional knowledge as well as future technology.

The Prime Minister further said that policy work done today in the field of education, skill development and employment would have far-reaching benefits.

Public should be holding lawmakers accountable for conduct in House: Om Birla

Sandeep Phukan
UDAIPUR

Om Birla and C.P. Joshi at the Executive Committee meeting ahead of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference. PTI

Disruptions in the legislature can come down if voters hold their elected representatives accountable for their behaviour in the House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Monday.

"When the voters of a particular legislature start questioning their elected representatives about disruptions and unparliamentary conduct inside the House, then disruptions will come down. And I am happy that most Legislative Assemblies have made their proceedings live," Mr. Birla said.

Delivering the inaugural address at the ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India region conference, Mr. Birla made a strong pitch for using digital technology so that citizens get access to the functioning of the legislative bodies and could see the participation of their elected representatives.

He said information provided in various legislatures should be exhaustive and comprehensive and announced that work on a common platform – One Nation, One Legislative platform – was under way to ensure every issue raised in an Assembly or Parliament, every debate, every question was posted online.

Mr. Birla observed that legislatures, be it Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies and Councils, represented the dreams and aspirations of 140 crore Indians.

"If someone who uses RTI [right to information] has more information than the legislative bodies, then it is a matter of worry," Mr. Birla told the conference, attended by Speakers and Deputy Speakers from across the country.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said use of digital technology not only provided better access to a citizen but also made the process of governance more participative.

Need to be neutral

The Lok Sabha Speaker also said that though Presiding Officers were elected on party ticket, they would become impartial and neutral on assuming the Chair.

Mr. Birla pointed out that while agreements and disagreements were part of democratic traditions, every side should adopt a constructive approach on issues that concerned the nation or a province.

The theme of the two-day regional conference of the CPA is "Strengthening democracy and good governance in digital age".

Speaking before Mr. Birla, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot credited former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for ushering in a "digital revolution".

"Our rivals keep mentioning his [Rajiv Gandhi] statement of 15 paise reaching a beneficiary if one rupee of public fund is spent. Today they say we make one rupee reach the beneficiary through DBT [Direct Benefit Transfer]. What they don't say is that Rajiv *ji* brought in the digital revolution by working on mission mode," Mr. Gehlot said.

While Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh spoke on the role of technology in governance, Rajasthan Speaker C.P. Joshi delivered the welcome address to delegates.

Pilot's appointment to CWC is a show of unity

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

The appointment of former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and six other leaders from Rajasthan to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) seems to be a message from the national leadership to the ruling party in the State to end rift and maintain unity for the coming Assembly election. Mr. Pilot's political stature has increased with his new appointment.

Mr. Pilot has been given an organisational role in the highest decision-making body of the Congress after a gap of three years since his rebellion in July 2020, when he was stripped of his positions as Deputy Chief Minister and Pradesh Congress Committee president.

The party's move to affirm Mr. Pilot's significance is expected to pacify his supporters who were unhappy over the turn of events in the past three years.

With Mr. Pilot's inclusion in the CWC following a truce brought about between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and him, the Congress's election campaign is set to gain strength, especially because he was also included in the screening committee for distributing party ticket earlier this month.

Mr. Pilot on Monday announced his schedule to address a party workers' convention in his Assembly constituency, Tonk, on Tuesday.

The Tonk MLA said the convention would be dedicated to the hard-working party members. He also expressed gratitude to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior leaders for making him a CWC member, saying he would join the efforts to strengthen the ideology and policies of the Congress and take them to the people.

Impact on Gujjars

Mr. Pilot's induction in the CWC will make an impact on the Gujjar community, to which he belongs. Gujjars, constituting a dominant community in eastern Rajasthan, had voted overwhelmingly for the Congress in the 2018 Assembly polls, but they were seemingly annoyed over the treatment meted out to Mr. Pilot.

The representation of Rajasthan in the CWC has gone up from four to seven after the reconstitution. Minister Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, a prominent tribal leader from Banswara, is a new entrant who has replaced Raghuveer Meena.

Bank recalls auction notice of Sunny Deol's bungalow after actor offers to settle dues

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Facing prospects of his bungalow in Mumbai being auctioned to recover unpaid loans, Bollywood actor Sunny Deol has offered to settle all outstanding dues, prompting State-owned lender Bank of Baroda to drop auction proceedings for the property.

The Gurdaspur MP from the BJP, whose latest movie *Gadar 2* is a box office success having already grossed over ₹300 crore since the release last week, has been in default on a ₹55.99-crore loan from the bank, interest and penalty, since December 2022.

In a statement on Monday, the bank said that Mr. Deol had offered to settle the dues, after which it withdrew the public notice to auction the villa owned by the actor, citing technical reasons, a move that was questioned by the Congress. In a post on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asked who triggered these "technical reasons".

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, RAIPUR
(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
No. AIIMS/RPR/Exam/2023/359 Date: 05.08.2023
ADMISSION NOTICE- MPH
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur invites applications for **Entrance Examination** for admission in **Master of Public Health (MPH)** course-**2023** session. The details are given below:
Master of Public Health (MPH): Total Non-sponsored seats-06 (UR-02, EWS-01, SC-01, OBC-02). Duration of the Course is two years.
Last Date for Submission of Online Form & Application Fee : 25.08.2023, **Date of Entrance Examination (Written Exam)- :** 10.09.2023(Sunday), **Time -** 11 AM to 12.30 PM, **Venue** – AIIMS Raipur
For detailed information please visit website **www.aiimsraipur.edu.in**. All subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Updates will be uploaded on the website of AIIMS Raipur only.
- Associate Dean (Examination)

e-Procurement Notice for Road & Building Works
Identification No. 04 / SERW / BLS / 2023-24

1.	Name of the Work	:	Roads & Building
2.	Total No. of Works	:	58 Nos
3.	Estimated Cost	:	Estimated Cost Rs.5.03 to Rs.117.47 Lakh
4.	Class of Contractor	:	'D', 'C', 'B' & 'A' Class
5.	Time of Completion	:	3 Months (Three Calendar Month)
6.	Other details	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Balasore
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divison, Balasore.	04 / SERW / BLS / 2023-24	23.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	02.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	02.09.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.	04.09.2023 At 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, R.W.Divison, Balasore
O-703 : OIPR-25108/11/0003/2324

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The National Institute of Immunology (NII) invites applications for its Ph.D. programme. Cutting-edge research at NII encompasses broad interdisciplinary areas of **Immunology, Infectious and Chronic Disease Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemical Biology, Structural Biology and Computational Biology.**
Important dates:
Online Application begins : 22.08.2023
Online Application closing : 22.09.2023
Admit card available for download : 07.10.2023 onwards
NII-2023 Entrance Examination : 29.10.2023
Interviews with Short-listed candidates : 27.11.2023 - 05.12.2023
The details of the application process are available at http://www.nii.res.in
Women candidates fulfilling the requirements are encouraged to apply

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 3929 / Date:18.08.2023
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1.	Name of the Work	:	21 Nos. of Road Works
2.	Total No. of Works	:	09 No. Roads under SACI, 07 Nos. of roads under CMRL, 04 roads under SDMF and 01 No. road under Improvement of Existing RD road for the year 2023-24
3.	Estimated Cost of the Work	:	Varies from Rs.73.79 lakhs to Rs.764.46 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.		B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crores up to Rs. 20.00 Crores		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crores up to Rs.50.00 Crores		Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of the Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender - Online - C.C.- 26 of 2023	23.08.2023 at 11.00 AM	07.09.2023 Up to 5.00 PM	08.09.2023 at 11.00 AM	To be intimated lateron

Further details can be seen from the web site : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.
O-701: OIPR-25082/11/0017/2324

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS
ELECTRONICS CITY, PHASE-I, HOSUR ROAD, BENGALURU-560 100.
Advt.No.CDOTB/HR&P/DR/025 Date: 22 Aug 2023
VACANCY NOTICE
C-DOT invites applications in prescribed format from eligible candidates working in State / Central / UT Govt, PSUs / Autonomous / R&D / Private Organisations for the following post on direct recruitment / deputation basis,
Location: Bengaluru

Sl.No.	Name of Post	Pay Matrix & Level	No. of Posts
1	Senior Manager (Admin & Campus)	Pay Level - 13 as per 7CPC	01

Please visit C-DOT website Careers (cdot.in) for complete details of this Advertisement. Interested and eligible candidates may apply and submit their application online on or before 13 Sep 2023, 5 p.m. All Government candidates are to route their application through proper channel as per details given in the website.
Sd/-
Registrar

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.28662018, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description	Sale of dimensional granite blocks from Kodakkal 1193/1 (Part-15) (Ext: 6.00.0 Ha) quarry of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	1168/EX-1/2023, Dated:17.08.2023 2023_TNMIN_361647_1
3	Bid submission end date	18.09.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.
4	Technical bid opening date	19.09.2023 at 16.00 hrs.
5	Tender form Fee EMD	Rs.2000/- or equivalent USD.25 (Non refundable) Rs.5,90,000/- or equivalent USD.7200

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/4644/TENDER/2023 GENERAL MANAGER(FINANCE)

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Short Tender Notice No.29/2023-24/SE-II/EE-III/DB/GVMC, Dt : 21-08-2023

01. No. of Works	: 02 (Two)
02. Value of Works (ECV)	: Rs. 247.25 Lakhs
03. Down loading Starting	: 21-08-2023
04. Down loading End Date	: 25-08-2023
05. Last Date for Submission of bid	: 25-08-2023

Further Details at http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the Executive Engineer (PW-III) Division For Commissioner, GVMC

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 1) Re-E-Tender No 128,129,130,132/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN, Jal Jeevan Mission - 1) WSS to Sreemoolanagaram, Kanjoor, Chengamanad, Nedumbasserry & Parakkadavu pts - Laying CWPM from Chowara WTP to Chengamanadu OHSR and Construction of Chengamanadu OHSR 2) PROVIDING Fhtc in POTHANIKADU AND PALLARIMANGALAM PTS - Construction of well cum pump house, RWPM & Construction of WTP 3) NELLIKUZHY Pt - Well cum Pump house, WTP & Row water pumping main, 4)WSS to Vengola, Rayamangalam Pts - Construction of 28 MLD WTP **EMD :** Rs. 1) 5,00,000/- 2) 2,00,000/- 3) 5,00,000/- 4) 5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 1) 19518,2) 13010, 3) 19518, 4) 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 07-09-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0484-2360645.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi
KWA-JB-GL-6-1074-2023-24

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal platform vide Enquiry No. BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT9 from eligible Bidders for **"Maintenance of LT AB Cable Network in South Circle area of BMA (South) Zone of BESCOM on item wise fixed price contract for two years on Total Turnkey percentage quoting basis".**
Bid Documents available: 24.08.2023. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 25.09.2023, 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 26.09.2023, 15:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through kppp portal web-site **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring Bidders need to register on kppp portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with kppp help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
The General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM

प्रतिभूति मुद्रणालय / SECURITY PRINTING PRESS
(भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा मुद्रानिर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई)
(A UNIT OF SECURITY PRINTING AND MINTING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED)
(भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्वाधीन / WHOLLY OWNED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
टकसाल कंपाउण्ड, सैफाबाद, हैदराबाद / Mint Compound, Saifabad, HYDERABAD-500 063
GSTIN: 36AAJCS6111J1Z9 CIN No. U22213 DL 2006 GOI 144763
E-mail:spp.hyd@spmcil.com Ph: 040-23253621 Website: http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com Fax: 040-23456687
सं./No.एसपीपीएच/SPPH/ए/A-II/विज्ञा./Adv/2023-24/1704 दिनांक: 21.08.2023
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना / NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं के लिए योग्य एवं अर्हता प्राप्त निविदाकारों से निविदा आमंत्रित है।/ Tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following Items :

क्र.सं. Sl. No.	वस्तुएँ / सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description of Goods / Services	मात्रा / Quantity	निविदा सं./ Tender No.	निविदाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय / Closing date and time for receipt of tenders
1	Manufacturing facility for manufacturing of 3 Lacs of Smart Cards in SPPH premises with outside agency.	3,00,000 Nos.	SPMCIL / Security Printing Press Hyderabad / Purchase / 3/23-24/ET/72 (3 Lakh Smart Card Mfg. facility)	05.09.2023 At 11:00 AM (IST)
2	Pneumatic Spares for APFM Machine	15 Items	GEM/2023/B/3707718	
3	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and training of Semi-Rotary die cutting with slitter rewinder machine.	1 No.	SPMCIL / Security Printing Press Hyderabad / Purchase / 4/23-24/ET/74 (Semi Rotary Die Cutting Machine)	22.09.2023 At 11:00 AM (IST)

अन्य विवरण हेतु, कृपया हमारे वेबसाईट:**http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com** & **https://gem.gov.in/** & **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/** देखें तथा कोई भी संशोधन / शुद्धि–पत्र वेबसाईट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा / For further details, please visit our website at **http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com** & **https://gem.gov.in/** & **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/** & amendment / corrigendum if any, will be published on website only.
हस्ता / Sd-
प्रबंधक एवं सामग्री अध्यक्ष (कृते मुख्य महाप्रबंधक) /
Manager and Head Materials (For Chief General Manager)

cmpdi CMPDI A Mini Ratna Company
सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) (कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड की एक अनुषंगी कंपनी)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834 031, Jharkhand, INDIA
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurment Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in".**

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SGC048738
Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Work Office: 1st Floor, Hudco Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
E-mail:SE.PP.RUVNL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvnl
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online bids are invited to procure Round the clock (RTC) power upto 1000 MW in September 2023 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-21/RUVNL/FY 2023-24. May visit website www.mstcecommerce.com/ www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvks/#/home/dptHome for further details.
Raj.samwad/C/23/7874 RUVN/PR-61 (2023) Superintending Engineer

INBRIEF

17 Indians held captive by an armed group in Libya rescued

Seventeen Indian nationals held captive by an armed group in Libya have been rescued and brought back to India following sustained efforts by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), people familiar with the matter said on Monday . The Indian nationals, hailing from Punjab and Haryana, reached Delhi on Sunday evening, they said. The Indian embassy in Tunis played a key role in the evacuation. The case was brought to the attention of the Indian embassy in Tunis on May 26 by the family members. On June 13, Libyan authorities were able to rescue the Indian nationals, but kept them in their custody, given that they had illegally entered the country. Following the intervention by our Ambassador in Tunis and senior MEA officials, Libyan authorities agreed to release them, they said. PTI

Four Australian F-35 jets join Malabar naval exercise

Four Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) F-35 fighters jets joined the 27th edition of Malabar naval exercise involving Australia, India, Japan and the U.S., which concluded on the east coast of Australia off Sydney on Monday. Four RAAF F-35s and two Hawk advanced jet trainers joined the exercise, a diplomatic source said. "At the culmination of five days of multifarious exercises, Exercise Malabar vividly showcased the strong cooperation, shared values and the collective ability of the four participating nations to ensure a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, promoting peace and security for all," the Indian Navy said in a statement. The exercise saw participation of ships, submarines and aircraft from the Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the U.S. Navy (USN), it stated.

Panel looks at steps to curb stress in realty sector

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Identifying financial viability as the primary reason for stress in real estate projects, an expert committee headed by former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has said judicial interventions such as the use of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) should be used only as a last resort in case of stalled housing projects.

The committee was set up in March to tackle the problem of incomplete real estate projects following a recommendation made by the Central Advisory Council under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. It submitted its recommendations to the Union Minister for Housing on Monday.

According to the report, the primary reason for stress in real estate projects is lack of financial viability which has resulted in cost overruns and delays. The report observed that steps are needed to improve the Internal Rate of Return of these projects which would attract more funding and judicial interventions such as IBC should be used only as a last resort. According to the committee, the Indian Banks' Association has estimated that 4.12 lakh stressed dwelling units involving ₹4.08 lakh crore are impacted in these stalled real estate projects.

Woman and baby crushed to death in Uttarakhand landslip

A search operation is under way for more victims as a taxi-stand lies buried under rubble at Chamba; schools closed after heavy rain alert

A landslip at Chamba in Tehri district, Uttarakhand, buried several vehicles under rubble on Monday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A four-month-old baby and his mother and aunt were killed in a landslip on the New Tehri National Highway at Chamba in Uttarakhand on Monday. The victims were identified as Poonam Khanduri, her four-month-old son and her sister-in-law Saraswati Devi. Suman Khanduri, the father of the child, had gone to a market nearby to buy food while his wife, son and sister-in-law waited in the car that was parked in a taxi-stand hit by the landslip.

The police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) started the rescue operation immediately. But after two hours of digging through the rubble, it was found that the three had died.

Tehri Senior Superintendent of Police Navneet Singh Bhullar said the bodies were recovered from the car buried under the rubble. "Some more vehicles could also be trapped as the landslip hit the taxi-stand near the Chamba police station," he said, adding that a search-and-rescue operation was underway. Reports that came in later in the day said the police had also recovered the body of a 30-year-old man but the victim is yet to be identified.

Meanwhile, all schools in Bhilangana, Chamba, Narendra Nagar and Jaunpur in Tehri district have been declared closed on Tuesday on the orders of the District Magistrate in view of a heavy rain alert for various parts of the State over the next two days.

(With PTI inputs)

ICSSR to develop Indianised research methodology tools

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

500 researchers will get funding for the studies based on fieldwork focused on a geographical region

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) will soon announce the results of the research award proposals it had invited to study the impact of various schemes and public policy initiatives of the Union government.

About 500 researchers will get funding for the studies based on fieldwork focused on a specific geographical region.

The ICSSR also plans to develop "Indianised research methodology tools" to study the country's social and economic changes.

The schemes and policy initiatives for empirical research include the PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Year of Millet 2023, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Aushadhi Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Make-in-India, PM Gati Shakti, New Education Policy 2020, Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 among others.

ICSSR Member Secretary and Professor of English in Jawaharlal Nehru University Dhananjay Singh told *The Hindu* that the ICSSR has a mandate to carry out primary data-driven empirical research on the social and economic impact of the policies of the government.

"Under the scheme, we want two types of studies. Collaborative studies with institutions [₹30 lakh for six months] and individual studies [₹6 lakh for six months] by encouraging researchers from peripheral areas and underprivileged institutions. About 500 proposals will be selected by an expert committee," Prof. Singh added.

Prof. Singh said when the country moves ahead towards the goal of becoming a developed country in 2047, social science has a crucial role to play. "It is in that context that we decided to study public policy initiatives. We have to have an equitable and sustainable development of the people. The specific research outcome is to recommend the government about the direction in which these schemes are moving and to inform the people about these policies," he said adding that 24 research institutes and six regional centres will help in this process.

Activists seek dialogue on controlled human infection trials policy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Before embarking upon controlled human infection studies, the government must ensure that there is a public discussion with regard to this, and must also ensure that people are protected against unfortunate results, a group of activists has said.

The group, which includes an advocate, an independent journalist, an independent researcher and other activists, has submitted its comments on the Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS) consensus policy statement that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released recently. In the statement, the group has also said that the proposed guidelines must offer opportunities to all people to put forth their views on the subject. It has called for providing the names of the individuals who drafted the CHIS document, a list of those consulted, and a list of the reviewers. The ICMR statement on CHIS is vague, and "allows loopholes, and leeway for legal and ethical violations," the document said.

The group has expressed reservations about various issues regarding clinical trials with healthy individuals and the introduction of disease-causing pathogens in them.

ICMR studies post-COVID mortality

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The study cautions that the results relate to patients who had been hospitalised during their initial COVID-19 infection, and hence could not be generalised. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

At least one dose of vaccine prior to COVID-19 infection provided 60% protection against post-discharge mortality, an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study on factors related to mortality within one year after discharge in hospitalised COVID-19 patients has found.

The study has also found that there is a higher chance of mortality within one year following discharge for those over 40 years of age, those with comorbidities, and those who suffered moderate to severe COVID.

It also observed that of the 14,419 participants contacted at least once in one year after discharge from the hospital, 942 deaths, or 6.5% all-cause mortality, were reported.

"Encouragingly, vaccination before the COVID-19 infection confers protection from post-discharge mortality. Post-COVID Conditions (PCC) and the presence of comorbidities may have some association with late post-discharge deaths; further research is warranted in this field," the study said.

The study, however, cautions that the results relate to patients who had needed hospitalisation and could not be generalised for all COVID-19 patients.

Clinical registry

The ICMR has been maintaining the National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 at 31 centres across the country, where all hospitalised COVID-19 patients are periodically contacted by telephone. Data collected till February 2023 were included in this analysis.

A matched nested case control analysis was conducted to evaluate the factors related to one-year post-discharge mortality.

The study states that post-COVID conditions (PCC) were associated with 2.7 times higher odds of post-discharge mortality. The limitations of the current investigation include reliance on telephonic follow-up, which could have led to under-reporting of the symptoms.

Other ongoing studies on COVID include the effect of the vaccine on thrombotic events in the 18-45 years population in India in 2022, and factors associated with sudden deaths in the same age bracket.

'India must maintain close watch on new variants of COVID-19'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

"While the COVID-19 situation in the country remains stable and public health systems in the country remain geared up, there is need for States to monitor trends of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) cases, and send sufficient samples for testing of COVID-19 while ramping up Whole Genome Sequencing," P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, after chairing a high-level meeting on Monday to review the global and national COVID-19 situation, newer variants of the virus in circulation, and their public health impact. He added that India must maintain close watch on new global variants of the virus.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), while EG.5 (Eris) has been reported from over 50 countries, the BA.2.86 (Pirola) variant has been reported from four countries.

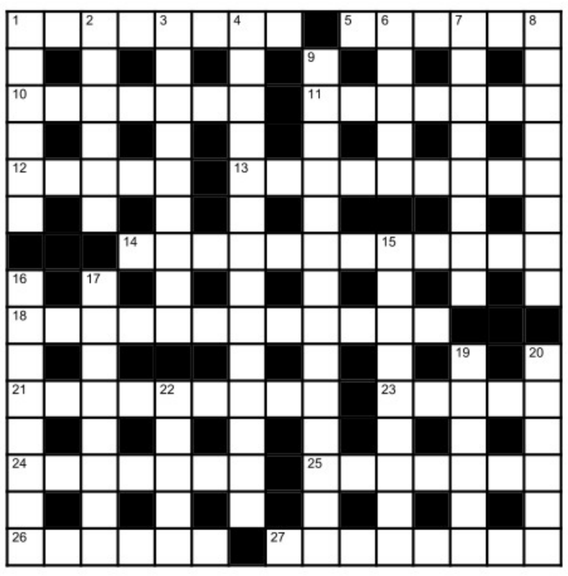
It was also noted that, globally, a total of 2,96,219 new cases of COVID-19 had been reported in the past seven days. India, which makes up nearly 17% of the global population, has reported only 223 cases (0.075% of global new cases) in the past week.

TH CROSSWORD + 13950

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Suggestion saving lives in plague (8)
5 English prince captivated by model's liveliness (6)
10 Bound by ultimately provocative lady in retreat, nervous (7)
11 Penny in wild beano at reception, primarily where drinks are free (4,3)
12 Arrives in hotel and sleeps (5)
13 A little indisposed? Doctor sent iron supplement (9)
14 Committed offence, meddling about after consuming ecstasy (6-6)
18 Unfriendly member acting in a short film (12)
21 Catches criminals outside plot (9)
23 Etna erupted around noon, concerning (5)
24 Smarter to avoid starter of aloo that's saltier (7)
25 Description of oriental article found in quarry (7)
26 Need a name perhaps for group of nine (6)
27 Defender in tears, so devastated by Ronaldo's header (8)

Down

1 Indicate procedure to excise a little round lump (6)
2 One left overwhelmed by row with girl is taking it easy (6)
3 Revelation of a Mafia boss confining lass on island (9)
4 Becoming independent by cancelling one's cable service (7,3,4)
6 Direct most eerie films (5)
7 Reconstructs pictorial puzzle to entertain one lad on vacation (8)
8 Song of lamentation is a number about retired professor (8)
9 Noise in fancy suite? Boss snores endlessly (14)
15 Derivative of Vitamin E - it possibly suppresses onset of neuropathy (9)
16 Friendly maiden enthralled by excellent guy (8)
17 American star, one cheating around in South American city (8)
19 Passionate woman turned to embrace date with love at bar (3-3)
20 Releasing energy, revolves around stationary part of engine (6)
22 Queen wanting fantastic Qatari side dish (5)

SUDOKU

			4				9	
	4		3			2		1
		8		9	5	4		3
1	5			2	3		8	
	8		9	6			2	5
7		4	5	8		3		
8		1			7		6	
	9				6			

No.SS5896 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	O	U	N	D	O	F	F		I	M	P	A	I	R
U		T		I		A		C		O		N		E
B	L	O	S	S	O	M		O	D	O	N	A	T	A
W		P		C		I		N		L		L		S
A	V	I	S	O		L	O	F	T	I	N	E	S	S
Y		A		L		Y		E				C		E
			C	O	M	P	A	R	E	N	O	T	E	S
H		S		U		L		E		O		S		S
E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	I	N	G			
A		A				N		C		L		N		H
V	I	R	U	L	E	N	C	E		E	R	A	T	O
I		G		A		I		C		T		P		S
E	L	A	T	I	O	N		A	T	H	E	A	R	T
S		Z		R		G		L		A		L		E
T	R	E	N	D	Y		S	L	A	L	O	M	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	7	5	1	9	3	8	2
5	8	1	3	4	2	6	7	9
3	2	9	7	8	6	1	5	4
2	1	4	8	5	3	9	6	7
7	9	8	4	6	1	2	3	5
6	5	3	9	2	7	4	1	8
8	4	2	1	3	5	7	9	6
1	7	6	2	9	8	5	4	3
9	3	5	6	7	4	8	2	1

FAITH

Dhritarashtra's request

Yudhishthira loses everything he possesses in the game of dice, and even stakes his brothers and his wife Draupadi. After Dushasana's attempt to disrobe Draupadi fails, thanks to the intervention of Lord Krishna, Dhritarashtra restores to Yudhishthira all that he had lost. Yudhishthira wants to know from Dhritarashtra what his further course of action should be. Dhritarashtra then speaks kindly to Yudhishthira, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse.

Dhritarashtra says Yudhishthira being an adherent of dharma will not let his mind dwell on the harm done to him by others. Virtuous men like him will never harbour hatred in their hearts. Their company is pleasant, and conversations with them are calming. Dhritarashtra says Yudhishthira is a jnani, and he has shown through his behaviour that he is indeed a righteous man. Therefore, Dhritarashtra's request to him is that he should forget Duryodhana's treatment of him and of his family. Dhritarashtra asks Yudhishthira to think of him (Dhritarashtra) as his father, and to look upon Gandhari as his mother.

Dhritarashtra gives a weak excuse for his silence when Duryodhana had crossed all limits. He says he had not restrained Duryodhana because he wanted to see how far Duryodhana would go. Yudhishthira has no cause for worry, says Dhritarashtra, for he has dharma on his side.

WASHINGTON

Trump threatens reciprocal tax on India if voted back to power

REUTERS

Former U.S. President and Republican candidate Donald Trump has once again raised the issue of high taxes in India on certain American products, in particular the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and has threatened to slap reciprocal tax if he is voted to power in the 2024 presidential elections. PTI

COPENHAGEN

Zelenskyy says in Denmark he is 'confident Russia will lose this war'

AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday he was "confident" Russia would lose the war in Ukraine. "Today we are confident that Russia will lose this war... I'm sure that we will win because the truth is on our side," Mr. Zelenskyy said while addressing a large crowd outside the Danish Parliament.. AFP.

BEIJING

China lodges complaint over Camp David remark by Korea, Japan, U.S.

AP

China said it had lodged complaints over a statement released at a first-of-its-kind summit of the leaders of the U.S., South Korea and Japan in which they criticised Beijing's "aggressive behaviour" in disputes in the East and South China Sea. U.S. President Joe Biden hosted the summit at the Camp David presidential retreat. AFP

HEBRON

Israeli woman shot dead, man wounded, in West Bank attack

AP

An Israeli woman was shot dead and another man wounded in a suspected shooting attack near the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said that a woman was "confirmed dead" after she was hit by gunfire. The man travelling with her in a car was in a "serious condition", it added. AFP

Nurse who killed seven newborns in her care jailed for life in Britain

Lucy Letby, 33, has also been charged with attempting to kill six other babies; she attacked prematurely born victims, often during night shifts, by either injecting them with air, overfeeding them with milk or poisoning them with insulin

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

A British nurse was jailed for life on Monday, with no prospect of release, for murdering seven newborns and attempting to kill six others while they were in her care.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of killing five baby boys and two baby girls, making her the U.K.'s most prolific child serial killer in modern history.

She was arrested following a string of baby deaths at the neonatal unit of the Countess of Chester Hospital in northwest England between June 2015 and June 2016.

Dastardly act: Lucy Letby, one of the U.K.'s most prolific child serial killers, refused to attend her sentencing on Monday. REUTERS

The prosecution said Letby attacked her vulnerable prematurely born victims, often during night shifts, by either injecting them with air, overfeeding them with milk or poisoning them with insulin.

Following a trial that started in October, a jury at Manchester Crown Court ended more than 100 hours of deliberations on Friday.

Letby was in the dock as the jury returned the first guilty decisions earlier in August.

But she was not in the dock for the final verdicts and refused to come up from the cells for her sentencing on Monday.

"You acted in a way that was completely contrary to the normal human instincts of nurturing and caring for babies," judge James Goss said, addressing Letby in her absence.

He said there was "premeditation, calculation and cunning" in her actions.

"You have no remorse," the judge said. "There are no mitigating factors."

Mr. Goss said that "because the seriousness of your offences are exceptionally high, I direct that the early release provisions do not apply".

"The order of the court therefore is a whole life order on each and every offence and you will spend the rest of your life in prison," the judge said.

Sunak's comments

After Letby refused to attend the sentencing, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said it was "cowardly that people who commit such horrendous crimes do not face their victims".

The leader of the main Opposition Labour party, former chief prosecutor Keir Starmer, promised to close the "shamefully exploited loophole" if elected to government.

Pakistan to compensate over 100 Christians who lost their homes in riots

Associated Press
MULTAN

Authorities in Pakistan are promising 2 million Pakistani rupees ($6,800) in compensation for each of the nearly 100 poor Christians who lost their homes when a Muslim mob angered over the alleged desecration of a Koran stormed their neighbourhoods, burning at least 19 churches and damaging houses.

Grim affair: Hundreds of Christians who fled their homes have returned only to see destruction everywhere in Jaranwala. REUTERS

The police said they have arrested dozens more rioters in ongoing raids, bringing the total number of detainees to 160.

Mohsin Naqvi, the top official in Punjab province, made the compensation announcement a day after he visited Jaranwala in Punjab, where hundreds of Muslims went on a rampage on last Wednesday over allegations that a Christian man and his friend had desecrated the Koran.

Mr. Naqvi held a Cabinet meeting at a burned church in Jaranwala to get approval for the compensation in the presence of local priests and residents.

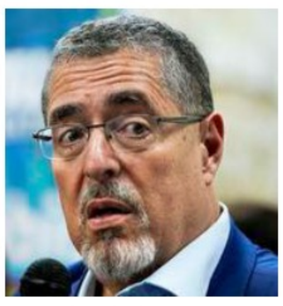
Hundreds of terrified Christians who fled their homes have returned only to see destruction everywhere. They have been living outside their burned homes, fearing the structures may collapse.

Legal hurdles still remain for Guatemala's President-elect Arévalo

Associated Press
GUATEMALA CITY

A progressive from outside Guatemala's power structure was resoundingly elected the country's next President in a reprimand to the governing elite over widespread allegations of corruption.

Despite preliminary results on Sunday showing a potential landslide for anti-corruption crusader Bernardo Arévalo, the attention immediately turned to whether he would be allowed to assume power. This is because the Attorney General's Office is attempting to suspend Mr. Arévalo Seed Movement party's legal status.



Bernardo Arévalo

With 100% of votes counted, preliminary results gave Mr. Arévalo 58% of the vote to 37% for former first lady Sandra Torres in her third bid for the presidency.

Mr. Arévalo said outgoing President Alejandro Giammattei told him that they would begin planning the transition the day after the results were certified.

'Saudi border guards killed hundreds of Ethiopian migrants'

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

The allegations point to an escalation of abuses along the perilous route from Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia

Saudi border guards fired "like rain" on Ethiopian migrants trying to cross into the Gulf kingdom from Yemen, killing hundreds since last year, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Monday.

The allegations, described as "unfounded" by a Saudi government source, point to a significant escalation of abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work.

One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants they had just released from custody. "They fired on us like rain. When I remember, I cry," she said.

Systematic abuse

The New York-based group has documented abuses against Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia and Yemen for nearly a decade, but the latest killings appear to be "widespread and systematic" and may amount to crimes against humanity, it said.

Ecuadorians reject oil drilling in the Amazon in historic decision

Associated Press
RIO DE JANEIRO

In a historic decision, Ecuadorians voted on Sunday against the oil drilling of a protected area in the Amazon that's home to two uncontacted tribes and serves as a biodiversity hotspot.

With over 90% of the ballots counted by early Monday, around six in ten Ecuadorians rejected the oil exploration in Block 44, situated within Yasuni National Park, one of the world's most biodiverse regions. The area is inhabited by the Tagaeri and Taromenani, who live in self-isolation.

Fragile land: Block 44, situated in the Yasuni National Park, is home to the Tagaeri and the Taromenani indigenous groups. AFP

In 1989, Yasuni was designated a world biosphere reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, also known as UNESCO. Encompassing a surface area of over 1 million hectares, it boasts 610 species of birds, 139 species of amphibians, and 121 species of reptiles. At least three species are endemic.

The outcome represents a significant blow to Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso, who advocated for oil drilling, asserting that its revenues are crucial to the country's economy. As a result of the vote, state oil company Petroecuador will be required to dismantle its operations in the coming months.

Political turmoil

The referendum took place alongside the presidential election. The country is experiencing political turmoil following the assassination of one of the candidates, Fernando Villavicencio.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOST DOCUMENTS

The General Public is hereby informed that my client, **MRS.G.N.UMA RANI,** aged about 36 years, wife of Sri. Munegowda, daughter of Sri. Nanjunda Gowda, residing at No. 37, Chalaganahalli, Baliganahalli, Kolar- 563139, has lost /misplaced the **Original Sale Deed** dated 14.08.2008 registered on 19.06.2009 as Document No. JGN-1-00974-2009-10, stored in CD No. JGND44, executed by **Sri. Pilla Reddy,** s/o Late. Nagappa Reddy and 21 others in favour of **Sri. Binoy T.G.** s/o Late Sri.Gopalan with respect to agricultural land bearing **Sy No. 170,** measuring **20 ½ Guntas,** situated in Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, bounded on the **East by :** Government Road, **West by :** Sampangi Ramaiah's Property, **North by :** Vishvanatha Reddy's Property, **South by :** Gopala Reddy's Property and the same is not traceable till date.

A Lost Article report has been filed with the Karnataka State Police on 19.08.2023 and the acknowledgement for the same was issued bearing GSC No. PO1796230601001, by the Station House Officer, HSR Layout Police Station, Bangalore- 560 102.

Any person in possession of the above referred original document may kindly handover the same to the undersigned.

Except Smt. G.N.Uma Rani, Sri. Prahalad Koushil Narasimhaiah, Smt. Kantharajapura Kavappa Sujaya Kumari, Smt. Ramya Narasimhaiah, Sri. Mohammed Iqbal Abdul Majid Mansoor, Sri. Akbar Ahmed, no other person/s has/have any share, right, title, interest and ownership over the aforesaid immovable property. Any person or persons dealing with the aforesaid property other than the aforementioned persons shall be doing so at their own risk, cost and consequence.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 21.08.2023

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAIK Mohiodden, R/o No.11, Ground Floor, Bilal Nagar, Arabic College Road, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Shaik Mohiuddin vide affidavit dt: 18.08.2023 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'lore

I, SAMUEL JOSEPH RAJ, R/at No. 1, Bangalore have changed my name from Josephraj S, S Josephraj to Samuel Joseph Raj for all future purposes by affidavit 19–08–2023 Notary Udaykumar

I, Manjala Kamakshi W/O, M Narasimha Raju R/o #61, 3rd Main, Amarajothi Layout, C N Halli, Bangalore North Rt Nagar Bengaluru- 560032. have changed my name to Manjula Kamakshi for all purposes.

I, Usha S D/o Srinivasan A, W/o Balakrishna, residing at No. 45 Indira Sadana, 3 Rd Cross Vishweswaraiah Layout, Sidedahalli Main Road, Bengaluru North, Karnataka-560073, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Usha Balakrishna Bhat.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KHAN Muzakkir Ahmed, R/o No.11, 17th Cross, Opp St. Dominic School, Govindapura Main Road, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Muzakir Ahmed Khan vide affidavit dt: 19.08.2023 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'lore

I, RAJIV Srinivasan, S/O Srinivas Krishnappa, R/O K,E 206,Keerthi Harmony Apts,Tc Palya Mn Rd Ramamurthy Ngr Doorvaninagar,Blr–16, Have Changed My Name As Rajiv Srinivas Gowda Vide Afdvt Dtd 04/08/23

I, Mohammed Ali S/o I Maqbool Pasha, residing at No. 2513, Ashoka Road, West Cross 23, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysore, Karnataka - 570001, have changed the name of minor Son Mohammed Aynun Naim aged 4 years and he shall hereafter be known as Mohammed Arham .

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SUKHI ARCADE, 175, Chickpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KHYATI Neeraj Verma D/O Neeraj Verma residing at Bangalore on 18–08–2023 hereby change my name to Khyati Verma for all future purposes.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALPHATHETA CORPORATION, JAPAN & PIONEER INDIA ELECTRONICS PVT. LTD.

General Public is hereby informed that with effect from 1st September 2023 Pioneer India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. (Pioneer) will not be distributing or marketing DJ equipments, accessories and services under the brand names Pioneer DJ and rekordbox manufactured and distributed by AlphaTheta Corporation, Japan.

Pioneer through its authorized service centers (accessible at: https://pioneer-india.in/stores/dj-equipment-services/) will entertain the valid warranty claims and after-sale service for the same upto 31st August 2023.

From 1st September 2023, AlphaTheta Corporation, Japan and its new authorized distributor in India will be solely responsible for all Distribution, Marketing and After-Sale Service of products and/or services under the brands Pioneer DJ and rekordbox sold in India.

You are advised to visit https://pioneer-india.in/pioneer djinfo/ following 1st September 2023 to get the details of the new service centers authorized by AlphaTheta Corporation, Japan and/or its new authorized distributor.

Issued by
Pioneer India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
Unit No. 3, 10th Floor,
Ambience Corporate Tower–II, Plot No. 3
Ambience Island, Gurugram–122002 Haryana, India

INBRIEF

TMB ties up with Jocata to offer digital lending products

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has partnered with FinTech platform provider Jocata to offer digital lending products to customers. "TMB has embarked on a large-scale digital transformation agenda along with business process re-engineering, and one of the key milestones for us will be to bring digital credit products to our MSME customers through technology," said managing director and chief executive officer CEO S. Krishnan.

Wipro appoints head for Wipro Enterprise Futuring

Wipro Ltd. said it has appointed Brijesh Singh as Senior VP and Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Head for Wipro Enterprise Futuring, which offers forward-looking solutions, comprising intelligent insights and data, application platforms, digital operations, and cybersecurity, for large-scale enterprise transformation to global clients. Mr. Singh's appointment follows Wipro's $1 billion investment in AI and the recent introduction of Wipro ai360.

HCL, UpLink seek fresh water conservation 'aquapreneurs'

HCL and UpLink, the open innovation platform of the World Economic Forum, on Monday, sought applications from 'aquapreneurs' to be a part of the Zero Water Waste Challenge called for innovative water usage approaches to improve freshwater conservation from supply to demand to achieve zero water waste. According to a HCL statement, this is the second out of five challenges planned by HCL and UpLink under their Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative.

'Amid air traffic rebound, jet fuel demand yet to catch up'

A slower rebound in long-haul travel and a distressed airline industry have led to lower demand for jet fuel; Low demand is expected to persist through 2023 even as flight traffic has recovered

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Demand for jet fuel is yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels in India and may only do so by the first quarter of 2024, S&P Global Commodity Insights said in a research note on Monday.

Although aviation traffic as well as passenger footfall have outgrown pre-COVID-19 levels, a relatively slower rebound in long-haul travel and a distressed airline industry have resulted in lower demand for jet fuel which is likely to persist through 2023, the research firm said.

The number of flights has returned to corresponding levels of 2019 this year, but the distance travelled by them is yet to recover, said Himi Srivastava, South Asia oil markets analyst at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

"The lack of recovery of longer flights accounting for lower kilometers travelled is one of the main reasons pulling back jet fuel demand as jet fuel demand is highly correlated to distance travelled," Ms. Srivastava observed.

Jet fuel demand is expected to fully recover by Q1 2024. However, if fuel prices surge again or discretionary income and employment weaken then lower load factors could necessitate fewer flights and thus, lower fuel consumption, the firm said.

Lagged recovery

Demand for jet fuel has failed to match the rise in air traffic above pre-pandemic levels: S&P Global Commodity Insights

- Jet fuel demand is expected to remain below pre-pandemic levels in 2023 and fully recover only by Q1 2024
- Fewer long-haul flights seen as a key factor as demand for jet fuel is highly correlated to distance travelled
- The recovery could be derailed by a surge in fuel prices or by a weakening of discretionary income and employment

Jio Financial Services slides 5% on debut

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Jio Financial Services Ltd. made a lacklustre trading debut on Monday closing 5% lower than its listing price on the NSE and BSE.

On the NSE, the stock listed at ₹262, touched an intraday high of ₹262.05, before closing at ₹248.90. The company's market capitalisation on the exchange was estimated at ₹1,58,133.24 crore.

Similarly, on the BSE the stock got listed at ₹265, touched the day's high of ₹278.20 before ending trading at ₹251.75, down 5%, On the BSE, the company's full market capitalisation was estimated at ₹1,59,943.93 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,216	0.41
US Dollar	83.13	-0.03
Gold	59,300	0.08
Brent oil	84.98	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2639.75	62.35
Adani Ports	858.15	22.25
Apollo Hosp	4932.65	84.30
Asian Paints	3182.30	18.75
Axis Bank	952.60	9.55
Bajaj Auto	4610.85	-4.70
Bajaj Finserv	1478.30	18.15
Bajaj Finance	7048.20	186.10
Bharti Airtel	871.95	15.70
BPCL	352.05	-0.85
Britannia Ind	4510.50	-24.55
Cipla	1233.80	-2.60
Coal India	230.10	2.65
Divis Lab	3665.25	10.35
Dr Reddys Lab	5910.85	36.40
Eicher Motors	3365.55	15.95
Grasim Ind	1808.40	17.45
HCL Tech	1179.25	5.55
HDFC Bank	1589.50	-1.25
HDFC Life	625.15	-0.80
Hero MotoCorp	2931.50	4.45
Hindalco	449.40	9.90
Hind Unilever	2562.75	8.00
ICICI Bank	955.20	4.55
IndusInd Bank	1397.80	26.10
Infosys	1405.40	16.60
ITC	447.80	6.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	248.90	-12.95
JSW Steel	794.75	7.65
Kotak Bank	1760.35	9.55
L&T	2662.25	20.30
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5147.55	62.40
M&M	1538.55	-14.10
Maruti Suzuki	9438.80	-17.25
NestleIndia	22034.35	204.35
NTPC	218.80	3.65
ONGC	176.05	0.75
PowerGrid Corp	247.20	6.20
Reliance Ind	2520.00	-36.80
SBI Life	1278.55	-3.90
State Bank	571.70	-1.25
Sun Pharma	1137.40	2.50
TataConsumerProduct	848.50	5.95
Tata Motors	620.50	4.70
Tata Steel	116.90	1.10
TCS	3401.65	34.55
Tech Mahindra	1218.85	8.05
Titan	3078.30	27.85
UltraTech Cement	8219.30	4.45
UPL	585.70	7.25
Wipro	414.60	2.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.91	83.23
Euro	90.38	90.73
British Pound	105.65	106.06
Japanese Yen (100)	56.81	57.04
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	94.19	94.56
Singapore Dollar	61.08	61.32
Canadian Dollar	61.31	61.54
Malaysian Ringitt	17.83	17.89
Australian Dollar	53.10	53.32

Source:Indian Bank

FPI buying in Indian shares fell in first half of August

Reuters
BENGALURU

Foreign portfolio investors' purchases of Indian shares fell to a five-month low in the first half of August.

FPIs bought shares worth ₹7.37 billion on a net basis in the first half of August, data from NSDL showed on Monday.

On a monthly basis, this is the lowest inflow since FPIs turned buyers in March. They had last net sold shares worth ₹52.94 billion in February.

India, ASEAN agree to review goods trade pact by 2025 to fix 'asymmetry'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and the ASEAN countries reached an agreement to review their free trade pact for goods and set a 2025 goalpost for concluding the review aimed at addressing the "asymmetry" in bilateral trade, the Commerce Ministry said.

A Joint Committee of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), signed in 2009, deliberated on the roadmap for the review of the pact and finalised the terms of reference for the fresh negotiations, ahead of an ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting held in Indonesia on Monday. The AITIGA review will now be taken up at the India-ASEAN Leaders' Summit scheduled in early September for further guidance.

Resolve to redress: The two sides have agreed on the terms of reference for fresh negotiations. REUTERS

"The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses and the early commencement of the review would help in making trade facilitative and mutually beneficial," the Ministry said in a statement.

"The Ministers agreed to follow a quarterly schedule of negotiations and conclude the review in 2025. The review of AITIGA is expected to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current asymmetry in the bilateral trade," the Ministry added.

German baby skincare brand Sanosan eyes 'rapid' growth

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sanosan, a premium German baby skincare brand, said it expects to grow rapidly in India, with the sales volume projected to double in three years. The brand was introduced in the Indian market 2 years ago through an exclusive distribution agreement with Glowderma Lab.

"We introduced our brand in India during COVID, so considering that, we have good success in this market," said Christine Steger, MD, Mann & Schroder Cosmetics, which produces and supplies the products under the Sanosan brand.

'Global auto majors raise freshers' hiring to meet EV demand'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Global auto brands such as BYD, Citroën, Kia, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, Audi, and Porsche are ramping up hiring of skilled professionals in engineering, research and design, and IT roles in India to ready themselves for the EV (electric vehicle) play.

Confirming the trend, Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services, a U.S.-based firm that offers recruitment services to global enterprises said auto captives in India have been ramping up hiring efforts by an impressive 20-40% in 2023.

"Several companies are also hiring about 1,000-2,000 candidates through campus recruitment drives," he said.

Munira Loliwala, AVP, TeamLease Digital said there was a visible increase in hiring by global auto players in the country. "The overall tech talent hiring demand in automotive sector has increased by 33% this year," she said.

China's Honor to make India comeback by early 2024

Reuters
BENGALURU

Chinese smartphone brand Honor will relaunch in India through a licensing deal with a local company and is aiming to start domestic manufacturing by early next year, its country head told Reuters.

Honor's comeback is underpinned by a licensing deal with a newly formed Gurugram-based firm Honor Tech for an undisclosed "agreed-upon cost" tied to the transfer of technology and hardware.

It will introduce three variants of Honor phones in India, with the mid-ranged Number series expected by September.

TN govt. gears up to allot land for Schwing Stetter's Cheyyar expansion

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has started the preparatory process for alloting land for German concrete equipment manufacturer Schwing Stetter India's (SSI) ₹400 crore expansion programme at Cheyyar.

SSI's representatives met officials of the concerned State agencies last week and briefed them about their expansion plan and sought 40 acres near the company's Cheyyar facility at the earliest.

An official at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) told *The Hindu* the agency was ready to allot 40 acres to SSI from the 70 acres they had at Cheyyar. The Project Officer was working on the matter and waiting for SSI to respond, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Larger canvas: The German construction equipment maker's unit aims to expand near its current Cheyyar facility. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The site inspection will be done in the next few days. We will pass on the information to Guidance Tamil Nadu and complete the task at the earliest. Then, SSI has to pay the requisite sum within 30 days," the official added.

Stressing that no proposal related to SSI was currently pending with the agency, Guidance MD V. Vishnu said he was waiting for the company to undertake a site inspection.

"First the site inspection should take place," Mr. Vishnu clarified. "Then after identification of land, we will tell SIPCOT to begin the allotment process. Site inspection will happen at the earliest," he added.

SSI CMD V.G. Sakthikumar said SIPCOT and Guidance were assisting the company. "We recently met SIPCOT and Guidance Tamil Nadu officials in this regard. The officials have agreed to do the needful."

The unit of Schwing GmbH plans to raise capacity for some existing products and also aims to start manufacturing new products such as XCMG loaders and motor graders.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Part System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPCL invites bids through e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

(1) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT386/CALL-2 Dated: 14.08.2023, for "Providing and replacement of eroded 200 NB to 15NB MS ERW/GI pipes and connected bends for bottom ash hopper discharge line, seal water line, ACW water line and wet ash slurry line system in units 2 to 4" RTPS. **(2) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT480 Dated: 14.08.2023,** for "Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Organophosphate and High Stress Polymer Acid storage tank at CWP Fore-Bay-2". Last date for submission of completed tender document: **29.08.2023 up to 15.30 Hrs for Sl.No. (1) & 16.00 Hrs for Sl.No. (2).** Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (AHP-1), Mobile No.: 9449596544 for Sl.No. (1), Executive Engineer(CAM-1) for Sl.No. (2), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170.**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Phone : 080-41106504 - 18.
e-mail: cekwbbng@gmail.com website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM
(Through KPPP only)

The Revised calendar of events for following tender which was published in Daily Newspapers "The Hindu" English Daily Karnataka Edition on 08.08.2023 is as follows:

Indent No.KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORKINDENT35

Name of work : Crossing pipeline across National highway 275 and railway by trenchless technology under water supply scheme to Bidadi town, KHB layout & 9 enroute villages with Manchnabele reservoir as source on lumpsum basis.

Revised Calender of Events :-	
1. Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal.	01.09.2023 upto 17.30 hours
2. Date and time for opening of Technical tenders	04.09.2023 after 11.00 hours
3. Date and time for opening of Financial bids	07.09.2023 after 11.00 hours

The other terms and conditions of the bid document remain unaltered.

DIPR/CP/996/AKAR/2023-24 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B), KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(SHARAVATHY VALLEY PROJECT)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT354/Call-2 Dtd: 16.08.2023

ABSTRACT e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids in two covers are invited through e-Procurement Portal (Website URL: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) for the work of **"Supply and installation, testing and commissioning of ProstarM/Power One/APC or equivalent Online UPS Systems with accessories and Voltage Stabilizers at Sharavathy Project, KPCL, Shimoga Dist., Karnataka".** Last date & time for online submission of tenders: **30.08.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.** Further information if required can be obtained from office of the Executive Engineer (O&M), Jog, Sharavathy, KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Sagar Tq., Shivamogga Dist., Karnataka. Ph: 08186-244723 or HP Helpdesk No.: 080-23010900/23010901.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **SHAMBHULINGAIAH R V** aged about 44 years S/o Rudradevaramutt V R residing at #418, Vaastu Hill View 2, Bangarappa Nagar Main Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098, has entered in to Agreement for sale on **18/08/2023** on Non-Judicial e-stamp paper valued at Stamp duty paid of Rs 9525/- with **M/S ESSEM18 Developer Pvt Ltd** represented by its MD S.V. Manish S/o S.M Venkatesh, having its registered office at #64/1 3rd Floor, S.M. Plaza, DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore along with other seller at serial No 2 to 5 of the Sale Agreement for purchase of below schedule property. Any persons having any matter of rights, title, charge, lien or interest, bequeath possession gift or otherwise over the schedule property or any person thereof may file their objections claims with the documentary proof **WITHIN TEN DAYS** from the date of publication of the NOTICE. Any objections/claims received there after will not be binding on my client and my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Site No. 70, situated in the layout known as **"THE VALLEY BY ESSEM18"** formed and developed in converted land bearing Sy Nos. 103/1, Sy. No. 103/2, (New Sy. No. 103/11), Sy. No. 103/2, (New Sy. No. 103/13), Sy. No. 103/2 (New Sy. No. 103/14), Sy. No. 103/3, Sy. No. 103/4, Sy. No. 103/5, Sy. No. 103/6, Sy. No. 103/7, Sy. No. 103/8, Sy. No. 103/9, Sy. No. 105/8, Sy. No. 105/12 and Sy. No. 105/15 of B.M Kaval Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, and Sy. Nos. 15/2, Sy. No. 15/3, Sy. No. 15/4 of Rachanamadu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore totally measuring 18 acres, 10.12 guntas, for which BMICAPA has issued the final modified layout sanction plan to an extent of **17 Acres 30** ¼ Guntas presently coming within the jurisdiction of Agara Panchayath having E-Khatha, measuring East to West 9.14 meters and North to South 15.24 meters totally measuring 139.29 square meters and bounded by; **East by** Site No 71, **West by** Site No 69, **North by** Road, **South by** Site No 77 and 78.

M. S. RENUKARADYA, Advocate
#933, 9th Cross, 11th Main, 3rd Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore – 98, PH: 9880561992
Date: 20/08/2023 Place: Bangalore

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal platform from eligible Bidders for **"Maintenance of LT AB Cable Network in East / North / West and Ramanagara Circle area of BESCOM on item wise fixed price contract for two years on Total Turnkey percentage quoting basis".**

Sl. No.	Description	Enquiry Nos.
1	East Circle area of BMA (North) Zone of BESCOM	BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT6
2	North Circle area of BMA (North) Zone of BESCOM	BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT7
3	West Circle area of BMA (South) Zone of BESCOM	BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT8
4	Ramanagara Circle area of Bangalore Rural Area Zone of BESCOM	BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT10

Bid Documents available: 24.08.2023. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 25.09.2023, 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 26.09.2023, 15:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through kppp portal web-site **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring Bidders need to register on kppp portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with kppp help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
The General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

A BG-BGE

VITAL COG

Kohli crucial to India's World Cup chances, feels Bishop

Former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop believes that Virat Kohli is a big match player and will play a crucial role for India in the upcoming ICC World Cup .“He is a man for the big stage and has a sense of the occasion as we all know. I hope he will do that because he a fantastic player in white ball cricket,” Bishop said on *RevSportz*.

DECISION TIME

One batting position does not make much difference, says Ganguly

Sourav Ganguly on Monday said that India has options for the No. 4 position in its ODI side, and stressed that one position alone will not win important tournaments like the World Cup. “Rahul Dravid, selectors and Rohit Sharma need to decide who is the No. 4 and has to continue with him,” Ganguly said.

A BIG LOSS

World Cup hero Carmona learned of father's death after the final

Spain's Women's World Cup final's goal-scoring hero Olga Carmona learned that her father had passed away after the 1-0 win over England, the Spanish federation said. “The RFEF deeply regrets having to report the death of Olga Carmona's father. We send our most sincere embraces to Olga and her family in a moment of deep pain.”

SHOCKING THE FIELD

Katzberg outshines the stars, clinches hammer gold at Worlds

Canadian 21-year-old Ethan Katzberg took a stunning World Championship hammer gold on Sunday with a National record throw of 81.25 metres in the fifth round. Poland's Olympic champion Wojciech Nowicki took silver with 81.02, with Hungary's Bence Halasz a crowd-pleasing bronze in 80.82.

Praggnanandhaa makes history, meets Carlsen in the final

The 18-year-old Indian draws Caruana out of his comfort zone before producing the knockout punch, becomes the third youngest after Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates Tournament; Goryachkina wins women's title

CHESS WORLD CUP

Rakesh Rao

Continuing his dream run, R. Praggnanandhaa took World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana out of his comfort zone, pulled him into shorter time-control games and nailed him to challenge favourite Magnus Carlsen in the final of the FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Praggnanandhaa, who turned 18 during the World Cup and knocked out second seed Hikaru Nakamura on the way, now becomes the third youngest to qualify for the Candidates Tournament after Bobby Fischer and Magnus Carlsen. He is also the first Indian to reach the World Cup final since the knockout format was introduced in 2005.

It may be recalled that Viswanathan Anand's titles came in 2000 and 2002 came in a 24-player league-cum-knockout format.

After Praggnanandhaa and Caruana played out four draws in three days, the decisive difference came in the first 10-minute rapid game. Praggnanandhaa, playing white, had an extra pawn by the 21st move but Caruana had compensation. The twist to the tale followed when Praggnanandhaa gained a second pawn and swiftly moved his king to the queen's side and added to Caruana's worries.

By this time, Caruana realised he was in serious trouble and needed some moves of sub-optimal strength from his young rival to regain lost ground. But Praggnanandhaa relentlessly chased victory and came within a move of handing out a checkmate when Caruana resigned on the 63rd move.

Caruana returned to hit back with white pieces but it was Praggnanandhaa who played proactively to put his desperate rival under pressure. Caruana did wriggle out of trouble but never held any winning chances. Eventually, Praggnanandhaa gave nothing away and the resultant 82-move draw took him past Caruana.

Looking back, Praggnanandhaa should consider himself extremely fortunate to have saved the first 25-minute rapid game with black pieces in 71 moves, while Caruana was left to rue the choice of pushing a kingside pawn on the 54th move that saw his winning chances evaporate in a flash. In this game, Caruana's time management was better than Praggnanandhaa's. In the second, too, Praggnanandhaa had to tread carefully and Caruana was alert to seizing any opportunity. This was an improved showing from Praggnanandhaa but Caruana was never under pressure.

Earlier, in the women's final, Aleksandra Goryachkina rode her luck to deny 20-year-old Bulgarian Nurgyul Salimova the title by winning the second 25-minute rapid game.

Salimova blew a winning position in the first rapid clash on Monday. In the second, the 2021 finalist Goryachkina held the upper hand before Salimova found a continuation, leading to a draw. Just when the contest seemed to be heading for a pair of 10-minute rapid games, Salimova erred one last time and Goryachkina seized the opportunity.

The results: Open: Semifinal: R. Praggnanandhaa bt Fabiano Caruana (USA) 3.5-2.5.
Women: Final: Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE) bt Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 2.5-1.5.

Stupendous win: Praggnanandhaa, after dealing a decisive blow, played solidly to ensure a draw and a berth in the final. X@FIDE

> Pragg goes through to the final! He beats Fabiano Caruana in the tiebreak and will face Magnus Carlsen now. What a performance!
> **VISWANATHAN ANAND**
> on X

Tilak gets the nod; fit-again Shreyas and Rahul back

In charge: Captain Rohit and chief selector Agarkar at a press conference on Monday. R.V. MOORTHY

ASIA CUP

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Tilak Varma is the only surprise inclusion in a batting-heavy Indian side with just two spinners in Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, the latter edging Yuzvendra Chahal on the back of recent performances.

Also returning are Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul, both sidelined for a while with injuries. Shreyas has got the all-clear, while Rahul had picked up a niggle in the last few days but should be available by the time the tournament kicks off, according to Ajit Agarkar, chairman of selectors.

“With Tilak we saw some real performance and temperament and this gives us an opportunity to give him some more exposure. Also as a left-hander he looks promising. When the time comes for that (World Cup selection) we will make the decision,” Agarkar told the media. The World Cup side is expected to be named on Sept. 5, midway through the Asia Cup.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, meanwhile, insisted that he was not thinking about being favourite for the title and that winning a tournament was a collective responsibility.

Marginal advantage

“We don't believe in the thought process of being the favourites, we have to play well and win the tournament. All teams will be here to compete hard. It can be a little advantage playing at home but even the other guys play a lot here these days and are aware of the conditions. It is not about one player or position to win us a game or tournament, it's about the entire batting unit coming together and getting the job done,” he explained.

The squad is scheduled to assemble in Bengaluru for a five-day camp.

The squad:
Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Tilak Varma, K.L. Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, and Prasidh Krishna; **Reserve:** Sanju Samson.

India's Group-A matches:
Sept. 2: vs Pakistan (Pallekele);
Sept. 4: vs Nepal (Pallekele).

Prannoy and Lakshya advance; Srikanth exits

BADMINTON WORLDS

Press Trust of India
COPENHAGEN

Indian shuttlers H.S. Prannoy and Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles second round of the World Championships with straight-game wins over Finland's Kalle Koljonen and Mauritius' Georges Julien Paul respectively here on Monday.

Prannoy, the World No. 9, saw off the left-handed Koljonen 24-22, 21-10 to extend his head-to-head count over the Finnish player to 3-0. Lakshya, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, streamrollered Paul 21-12, 21-7 in 25 minutes.

The match between Prannoy and Koljonen turned into a tight battle in the opening game with the Finnish player quick to open up a 8-4 lead. Prannoy reeled off seven straight points to grab a 11-8 lead at the break.

An exciting battle ensued after resumption with Koljonen eventually grabbing three game points after pushing one away from the forehand of his opponent. Prannoy saved all three game points before hitting wide to hand over the advantage to his rival.

A backhand block at the net helped him save another game point but he sprayed into net next as it was 22-21 in favour of the Finnish player.

The second game started on an equal footing with Prannoy marginally leading 6-5 at one stage. However, the Indian opened up a six-point lead at the break with a smash.

The Indian kept moving ahead with Koljonen finding it hard to negotiate the angles and deceptions of Prannoy, who soon gained 12 match points after Koljonen hit wide. Prannoy missed one at the net and Koljonen saved another one before the Indian shut the door with a straight smash.

However, former World No. 1 K. Srikanth made a first-round exit, going down to 14th seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 14-21, 14-21 in a 47-minute battle.

The mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and N. Sikki Reddy lost to Adam Hall and Julie Macpherson 14-21, 22-20, 18-21.

The results (first round):
Men: Lakshya Sen bt Georges Julien Paul (Mau) 21-12, 21-7; H.S. Prannoy bt Kalle Koljonen (Fin) 24-22, 21-10; Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) bt K. Srikanth 21-14, 21-14.
Mixed doubles: Adam Hall & Julie Macpherson (Sco) bt Rohan Kapoor & N. Sikki Reddy 14-21, 22-20, 21-18.

Calling the shots: Lakshya was hardly stretched by Paul, cruising to victory in 25 minutes. FILE PHOTO

It's time to start a dynasty, says Lyles

WORLD ATHLETICS

Jonathan Selvaraj
BUDAPEST

As the 100m finalists of the World Championships made their way to the starting blocks, a hush enveloped the stadium.

The emcees stopped speaking, and the fans fell silent. People took out their camera phones to capture the moment. Even those who continue to speak were shushed. This was a moment that commanded reverence.

The crowd agreed to a moment of silence before the race director announced “on your marks” and “get set”. The stadium erupted when the pistol fired and the race began. Less than 10 seconds later, anticipation filled the air.

Finally, a name was listed on the scoreboard. It read Noah Lyles and next to it was 9.83 seconds. Lyles saw it though he already knows the result. He found the on-screen camera and yelled: “They said it couldn't be done. They said I wasn't the one. But thank God I am!”

Then he wheeled away in celebration, almost as if powered by the electricity coursing through the crowd.

Track athletics needs the 100m. Ever since Usain Bolt's retirement in 2017, the sport has lacked a star. Perhaps Lyles could be the one. It's not taken him too long to appoint himself as Bolt's heir apparent. At the media interaction following the race, Lyles talked about winning the 200m and the 4x100m relay.

“It's time to start a dynasty,” he beamed.

Lyles might have won bragging rights for this year with his win at the Budapest Worlds, but you know that everyone gets to run this one again. The athletes will be ready, and for sure, so will be the fans.

Lyles. GETTY IMAGES

India has got a really solid 1-2-3 combination, similar to Australia's: Hayden

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Despite the injury-prone middle-order, Matthew Hayden, the two-time World Cup champion, has backed India's selection for the Asia Cup and has billed it a strong contender for the World Cup.

“In the lead up to World Cups you are always going to have some trial players and we have seen the class of Tilak Varma. I think it's a good strategy in terms of not just this World Cup but even potentially getting into the next World Cup (cycle) as well,” Hayden said here on Monday, on the sidelines of the Ceat Cricket Rating awards.

“The great thing about Team India is it's got a really solid 1-2-3 combination. Similar to Australia's, actually. When you look at their last four or five months, they have had a really good, strong, what we like to call the engine room. And then they have got some good problems to solve through the middle order. And if they can fill spots with a few talented young players like Tilak, put pressure on someone like Suryakumar Yadav, I think that's a good strategy. Keep everyone honest in the side and performing, so not a bad move. I think it's a great side.”

All of Hayden's 22 World Cup appearances resulted in Australia winning each one of these affairs. However, with the cricket ecosystem having changed a great deal over the last decade with the evolution of T20 cricket, a World Cup preparation is all but a distant dream for most sides.

Hayden, though, insisted that the importance of the ODI World Cup will continue to prevail.

“One-day cricket is still a unique property because it goes through phases of play where it's not just about fours and sixes. It's about fitness and running. That's in the field and also with the bat, which favours sides that really focus heavily on their fitness,” Hayden said.

Talking cricket: Hayden and McCullum having a chat at the Ceat awards function in Mumbai on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

INBRIEF

Djokovic wins marathon against Alcaraz

Novak Djokovic outlasted Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling rematch of their Wimbledon final, winning 5-7, 7-6(7), 7-6(4) on Sunday to take the Western & Southern Open in a match that lasted 3 hours, 49 minutes.

Other result: WTA: Gauff bt Muchova 6-3, 6-4.

Double podium for Geoffrey Emmanuel in Malaysia

India's Geoffrey Emmanuel marked his debut in the Malaysian Superbike Championship 2023 with podium finishes in both races astride a Honda CBR 250 machine in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend. The 18-year-old from Chennai took part in the 250cc category (A Class) of the championship. Geoffrey (Gusto Racing India) finished third overall, starting from third in both races despite limited seat and track time. He narrowly missed the second spot by less than a tenth of a second in a tight finish in the first race.

Rider Mobin passes away during Desert Challenge

Mobin Shah, a rally rider passed away while competing in the Ultimate Desert Challenge in Sam Dunes in Jaisalmer due to heat exhaustion on Saturday. According to a statement from the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the 27-year-old was seen sitting exhausted away from his bike in Special Stage 3. He was immediately shifted to a life-support ambulance before being taken to a hospital where he passed away. The second day of the event on Sunday was cancelled as a mark of grief.

Durand Cup: Indian Army enters the quarterfinals

Indian Army Football Team played out a goalless draw against Rajasthan United FC in the final group-F league match to become the only Services outfit to progress to the quarterfinals of the 132nd Durand Cup, at Kokrajhar on Monday. The drawn match saw the Army outfit remaining unbeaten in the group to secure seven points from three matches and joined the other seven teams - Emami East Bengal, Mohun Bagan SG, Mumbai City FC, Gokulam Kerala FC, FC Goa, NorthEast United FC, Chennaiyin FC - who had previously booked their berths in the last-eight stage.

Other result: Group C (Kolkata): Kerala Blasters 5 (Mohammad Aimen 9, Bidhyasagar Singh 12, 61, 82, Danish Farooq 57) bt Indian Air Force FT 0.

Arya spins it Dragons' way against Blasters

His spell derails the Bengaluru side's chase after the Mangaluru team posts 171; Mystics bowlers restrict Lions to 121 before the batters take over

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Turning point: Once Arya took the ball, Dragons' fortunes changed.

Left-arm spinner Paras Arya's five for 22 helped Mangaluru Dragons defeat Bangalore Blasters by 31 runs in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday. Arya's was the first five-wicket haul of the tournament.

Asked to bat, Dragons relied on contributions from Aniruddha Joshi (39), Aneeshwar Gautam (32), Rohan Patil (28) and K.V. Siddharth (23) to post 171 for seven. For Blasters, Sarfaraz Ashraf, L.R. Kumar and T. Pradeep bagged two wickets each.

In reply, Shubhang Hegde (54 n.o. off 41 balls) and Sarfaraz Ashraf (23) put up a valiant fight for the Bangalore side, but it was not enough.

In another match, Gulbarga Mystics cruised past Shivamogga Lions by nine wickets. The Mystics bowlers did a stellar job to restrict Shivamogga to 121 before L.R. Chethan (58 n.o.), Adarsh Prajwal (37) and Macneil Noronha (27 n.o.) ensured that the team chased down the target in just 12.4 overs.

The Shivamogga innings stuttered when left-arm spinner Hardik Raj scalped Rohan Naveen and Abhinav Manohar in the eighth over. In the next, Amit Verma dismissed Rohit Kumar to leave the side in trouble at 76 for five. A late-order collapse also spelt doom for Shivamogga.

The scores:

Mangaluru Dragons 171/7 in 20 overs (Aniruddha Joshi 39, Aneeshwar Gautam 32, Rohan Patil 28) bt Bengaluru Blasters 140/9 in 20 overs (Shubhang Hegde 54 n.o., Paras Arya 5/22).

Shivamogga Lions 121 in 17.4 overs (Rohan Naveen 33, Rohit Kumar 25, Hardik Raj 3/27) lost to Gulbarga Mystics 126/1 in 12.4 overs (L.R. Chethan 58 n.o., Aadarsh Prajwal 37, Hadley Noronha 27 n.o.).

The hunger to play cricket never went away: C.M. Gautam

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka captain C.M. Gautam has taken the long and arduous route back to First Class cricket. Gautam's long held wish to wear the whites was fulfilled when he took the field for Sebastianites Cricket and Athletic Club in Sri Lanka's Major League Tournament.

The wicketkeeper-batter played two matches for the club in June, before returning to Bengaluru as the tournament was paused to accommodate the 2023 Lanka Premier League.

Gautam, 37, will fly to Sri Lanka on Wednesday, to complete his Major League Tournament season.

A little over three years ago, Gautam was among those chargesheeted in connection to corruption allegations in the 2019 Karnataka Premier League.

C.M. Gautam. FILE PHOTO

Stumbling block

The case put a halt to Gautam's career. He last represented Karnataka in October 2019, in a List A game against Goa.

In early 2022, things looked up for Gautam when the Karnataka High Court quashed the chargesheet. This cleared the way for his re-entry into official cricket.

Even during those tough times, Gautam held on to the dream.

"Even in my worst period, I was motivated to get back to playing at a high level. I had something to prove," Gautam told *The Hindu* here on Monday.

"The hunger to play cricket never went away. I visualised playing First Class cricket, be it in the Ranji Trophy or elsewhere. I've played matches for Bank of Baroda – I've kept in touch with the game. Physically I'm still in good shape. It feels great to be back," Gautam added.

High standard

On competing in Sri Lanka, Gautam said, "The standard is very high. It is a challenge to adapt to the new conditions."

Gautam was a standout performer across formats in his 11-year career with the Karnataka senior team. He often rescued the side with stellar performances with the bat, and his clean wicketkeeping and rallying calls from behind the stumps made him an asset.

He struck a career-high unbeaten 264 against Maharashtra in the 2012-13 Ranji Trophy – a season where he finished as the second-highest run-scorer of the tournament.

Integral part

Gautam was an integral part of the Karnataka team which twice won three domestic titles in a single season (2013-14 and 2014-15).

These highlights may be a decade past, but Gautam is confident that he still has plenty to offer.

Toufik (Bengal, 6/52).

Hrithik (Delhi, 5/69).

Toufik spins a web, CAB bowls out Kerala cheaply

BUCHI BABU

Sports Bureau

Off-spinner Toufik Uddin Monda's six-wicket haul helped Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) bowl out Kerala cheaply for 195 on the opening day of the second round All India Buchi Babu invitation tournament in Tirunelveli on Monday.

The scores: At Coimbatore: Indian Railways 184 in 54.3 overs (Nishant Kushwah 52, Sagar Solanki 45, Shubham Agarwal 4/38) vs Chhattisgarh 67/2 in 26 overs.
At Dindigul: Madhya Pradesh 204 in 79.2 overs (Harsh Gawli 74, Mahesh Pithiya 4/63) vs Baroda 31/2 in 7.1 overs.
At Salem: Jammu & Kashmir 256 in 64.1 overs (Shubham Pundir 46, Fazil Rashid 50, Hrithik Shokeen 5/69) vs Delhi 68/2 in 17 overs (Anuj Rawat 47 batting).
At Tirunelveli: Kerala 195 in 65.3 overs (Krishna Prasad 53, Anand Krishnan 44, S. Sachin 44, Toufik Uddin Mondal 6/52, Vaibhav Yadav 4/50) vs CAB XI 53 for two 24 overs.

KARNATKA ROUND-UP

Navneeth hits triple ton

Navneeth V. Raj smashed a triple century (306) and claimed five wickets (5/24) as Sri Vani Educational Centre Trust walloped Holy Cross School by a mammoth 427 runs in the KSCA Cup under-16 inter-school second division tournament.

The scores: Sri Vani Educational Centre Trust 481/6 in 50 overs (Advik Chandrashekar 40, Navneeth V. Raj 306) bt Holy Cross School (U-16) 54 in 13.5 overs (Navneeth V. Raj 5/24, Dhruv Rao 5/30).

Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul International 74 in 25.4 overs (Jason Mario Thomas 3/11, V. Aatish Balaji 4/22, Dhruv Reddy 3/14) lost to The Frank Anthony Public School 75 for no loss in 14 overs (Nakka Manvesh Vasu 32 n.o.).

NPS, B–10 112 in 29.3 overs (Mohith Vishwanath 49, Tej Jaganath 27, Ashith Kumar Gowda 4/36, P.J. Vishist 4/14) lost to Chinmaya Vidyalaya 116/2 in 20.2 overs (Rajaneni Mohanish 58 n.o., K.M. Nandan 25 n.o.).

Sri Kumaran PS, ICSE 149 in 41.4 overs (Pranith Sai Prashanth 80, Amogh Harsha 30, Nikhil S. Gowda 3/15, Aneesh Subramanya 3/1) bt St. Paul's English School 146 in 41.3 overs (H.S. Aditya 42,

Navneeth (Sri Vani ECT, 306 & 5/24).

Ojas Jamadagni 4/45, Brijesh Iyer 4/23).

The Regency PS 56 in 18.4 overs (Ayush Saha 5/14) lost to Army PS 60/4 in 8 overs (Mayank 33, M.K. Sushanth Keshav 3/23).

Carmel HS 296 in 49.5 overs (H. Ashwin 26, V. Nishanth 45, Amogh Morabad 71, C. Nithin 38, R.H. Hrithvek 5/59) bt Sudarshan Vidyamandir, ICSE 147 in 32.2 overs (S.P. Samrudh 35, Preet R. Jain 3/55, Jinesh Chhajer 3/20).

Kinjal sets up Vultures' facile win

Kinjal B. Patel's five-wicket haul (5/2) helped Vultures defeat Merchants (2) by seven wickets in the KSCA Women's League. In another match, Rimjhim Shukla unbeaten 159 carried Vijaya to a thumping 178-run win over Dooravani Cricketers.

The scores: Palace Orchard 418/6 in 50 overs (M. Sowjanya 41, M. Sowmya 99, Bhavya 91 n.o.) bt Yankees 108 in 41.1 overs(Kavitha 3/10).
Vijaya 307/5 in 50 overs (Rimjhim Shukla 159 n.o., Clarissa Grace Herald 79, Saanvi Sateesh Sajjanar 25) bt Dooravani Cricketers 129 in 38.3 overs (Tanisha Kamat 35).
Mount Joy 154 in 38.4 overs (R. Sloka Veera Hyndhavi 30, H. Bhavika Reddy 44, Varsha K. Sulakhe 3/34, Sadhana M. Nayar 5/19) bt Merchants CC (1) 153 in 49.3 overs (B.G. Tejashwini 44, Rajavarapu Pragna Veer Brahmani 5/25).
Merchants (2) 122 in 36.1 overs (K.J. Rajashree Iyengar 41, Kinjal B. Patel 5/2) lost to Vultures 125/3 in 25.1 overs (K.V. Disha 45).
Modern 44 in 21.4 overs (Sahasra 8/11) lost to Social Cricketers 45/1 in 5.5 overs.

Easy for Roots

Ridhin K. Dharman scored a brace as Roots FC thrashed Young Challengers FC 6-0 in the BDFA Super Division foootball league here on Monday.

The results: Kodagu FC 4 (Shlok Tiwari 46, 53, Heiwanbha Dekhar 60, Madan Ghogale 86) bt BUFC 0; Roots FC 6 (Yohannvictor Britto 15, Gautam Rajesh 40, R. Vishal 48, 54, Ridhin K. Dharman 50, 52) bt Young Challengers FC 0.

Shikhar shines

Shikhar Shetty's match-haul of eight wickets (5/36 & 3/19) helped Bangalore defeat Combined Mofussil XI by 10-wickets in the KSCA U-19 inter-zonal tournament.

The scores: Mofussil XI 233 in 72.3 overs (Harsha Wardhan Khuba 85, Nischith Pai 31 n.o., P. Harshith Gowda 3/37, R.J. Mankalesh 3/31) & 115/8 in 38 overs (Harsha Wardhan Khuba 37, H. Samit Ramesh 3/27) drew with President's XI 223 in 70.2 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 44, R.V. Rohit 32, P. Vikas 33, Nischith Pai 4/30).
Bangalore City XI 318/4 decl. in 80.1 overs (Gyan Somaiah 41, Samit Dravid 139, Arnav Mishra 105 n.o.) & 141/2 in 29 overs (R. Shishir 54 n.o., Aaryan Santosh 50 n.o.) drew with Combined City XI 234 in 68.3 overs (Raag Punja 95, M.P. Samarth 35, Dishan Mandhana 26, Divyam Khater 3/35).
Combined Mofussil XI 161 in 44 overs (S.U. Karthik 33, Akshay A. Kamath 61, Shikhar Shetty 5/36) & 135 in 52.2 overs (Madhava Dharwadkar 84, S. Agastya 3/19, Shikhar Shetty 3/19) lost to Bangalore 258 in 61.2 overs (Srujan Nandan 72, Hari Rajiv 65, Arnav Sajan 51, P. Kishan 4/47, Vivek Naik 3/52, M.C. Ajith 3/66) & 41/0 in seven overs.

Patient Sethuraman takes the lead

Rakesh Rao
PUNE

S.P. Sethuraman took his time to convert his chance into a well-crafted 94-move victory over fellow GM Deep Sengupta to emerge as the leader with six points after as many rounds of the National chess championship here on Monday.

Important results (sixth round): Abhimanyu Puranik (5.5) drew with Mithrabha Guha (5.5); Deep Sengupta (5) lost to S.P. Sethuraman (6); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (5) drew with Deepan Chakkravarthy (5); M. R.Venkatesh (5) drew with Diptayan Ghosh (5); Vishnu Prasanna (4.5) lost to Aronyak Ghosh (5.5); Kolla Bhaavan (5) drew with P. Shyaamnikhil (5); Uktal Ranjan Sahoo (4) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (5); N.R. Visakh (5) bt Dinesh Sharma (4).

C. Praveen Kumar (4) lost to P. Iniyan (5); Apoorv Kamble (5) bt Sayantan Das (4); Neelash Saha (5) bt Vivaan Shah (4); Anuj Shrivatri (5) bt Yash Bharadia (4); L.R. Srihari (5) bt P. Supreetha (4); S. Nitin (3.5) lost to Bhoopnath Yadav (5).

LIVE TELECAST

BWF: World Championships, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 p.m. onwards

Maharaja Trophy T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 1 & 5.30 p.m.

Afghanistan vs Pakistan: 1st ODI, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3 & 6 p.m.

Champions League: (play-offs, first-leg), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Tiger Mountain clinches the Royal Revive Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer M.R. Chauhan's Tiger Mountain, ridden by Akshay Kumar won the upper division of the Royal Revive Plate, the chief event of Monday's (Aug. 21) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Gurpal Singh rep. Mukteshwar Racing LLP & Mr. Shantanu Sharma.

1. RAZIA SULTANA PLATE (Div. I): **GRETSY** (Sonu Kumar) 1, Great Giver (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Assured Success (Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 3 and Encore (R.S. Jodha) 4. 3, Hd and 1-1/4. 1m 15. 09s. ₹333 (w), 43, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 45, SHW: 83 and 33, FP: 3,176, Q: 1,316, Tanala: 7,711. Favourite: Assured Success.
Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

2. RAZIA SULTANA PLATE (Div. II): **HOPING SKY** (Mohit Singh) 1, D Right Time (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Trishul (Surya Prakash) 3 and Decoy (A. Imran Khan) 4. 3/4, 3/4 and Nk. 1m 16. 08s. ₹324 (w), 43, 12 and 26 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 52, SHW: 180 and 25, FP: 3,439, Q: 1,261, Tanala: 26,647. Favourite: Decoy.
Owner: Mr. Deepak Choudhary. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

3. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II): **EXOTIC DANCER** (Sonu Kumar) 1, Laurus (S. Saqlain) 2, Malaala (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Star Racer (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Shd, Shd and 2. 1m 15. 10s. ₹112 (w), 41, 15 and 14 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 74, SHW: 65 and 23, FP: 1,283, Q: 503, Tanala: 4,669. Favourite: Malaala.
Owners: Mr. Prakash Babu & Mr. G. Krishnamohan Rao. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

4. GADWAL PLATE: PROUD MARY (A. Imran Khan) 1, Dyanoosh (Surya Prakash) 2, Reigning Beauty (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Sound Echo (D.S. Deora) 4. Not run: Lights On. 7-3/4, 1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m 14. 41s. ₹16 (w), 12, 54 and 15 (p). SHP: 234, THP: 36, SHW: 11 and 62, FP: 405, Q: 397, Tanala: 2,561. Favourite: Proud Mary.
Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

5. RACHAKONDA CUP: LUCKY ZONE (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Role Model (R.S. Jodha) 2, Life Is Good (Md. Ismail) 3 and Fresh Hope (Shivansh) 4. Not run: Alpine Girl. 1/2, 2 and 3-1/4. 1m 42. 71s. ₹19 (w), 10, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 42, SHW: 10 and 30, FP: 54, Q: 40, Tanala: 75. Favourite: Lucky Zone.
Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd., Miss Harsha N. Desai & Miss Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

6. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (Div. I): **TIGER MOUNTAIN** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Ashwa Morocco (Sonu Kumar) 2, Carlisle (Afroz Khan) 3 and N R I Superpower (S. Saqlain) 4. Hd, 4-1/2 and 3/4. 1m 26. 77s. ₹15 (w), 11, 14 and 23 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 32, FP: 55, Q: 39, Tanala: 173. Favourite: Tiger Mountain.
Owners: Mr. Gurpal Singh rep. Mukteshwar Racing LLP & Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

7. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I): **ABOVE THE LAW** (Md. Ismail) 1, Red Snaper (Afroz Khan) 2, Morior Invictus (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Garnet (Sonu Kumar) 4. Hd, 1-1/4 and Nk. Im 14. 67s. ₹93 (w), 25, 29 and 21 (p). SHP: 120, THP: 61, SHW: 21 and 60, FP: 1,347, Q: 618, Tanala: 14,887. Favourite: Garnet.
Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

8. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (Div. II): **MYSTERIOUS ANGEL** (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Royal Grace (Afroz Khan) 2, Amyra (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Unsung Hero (Neeraj) 4. 3/4, 6-3/4 and 1-1/4. Im 27. 19s. ₹19 (w), 13, 17 and 37 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 99, SHW: 19 and 32, FP: 91, Q: 71, Tanala: 687. Favourite: Mysterious Angel.
Owner: Mr. K.H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

9. ROYAL WINDSOR PLATE: JUST INCREDIBLE (Kuldeep Singh Sr) 1, Lady Danger (D.S. Deora) 2, Fatuma (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Sucker Punch (S.K. Paswan) 4. 5-3/4, Hd and 1. 1m 29. 20s. ₹33 (w), 17, 20 and 63 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 109, SHW: 35 and 27, FP: 157, Q: 92, Tanala: 3,942. Favourite: Just Incredible.
Owners: Mr. Ashok Rupani & Mr. Sunder Peshwani. Trainer: S. Sreekant.
Jackpot (i): 100%: ₹1,83,985 (c/o); (ii): 70%: 12,439 (39 tkts.); 30%: 534 (389 tkts.); Treble (i): 24,285 (c/o), (ii): 58 (740 tkts.), (iii): 4,881 (9 tkts.).
Mini jackpot (i): 58, 035 (1 tkt), (ii): 6,655 (11 tkts.).

SNAPSHOTS

Late goals help Barca overcome Cadiz

MADRID: Barcelona needed late goals from Pedri and Ferran Torres to beat Cadiz 2-0 in the Spanish league in the first official match at its temporary new home, Lluis Companys Olympic Stadium, for the season on Sunday.

The results: LaLiga: Real Betis 0 drew with Atletico Madrid 0; Barcelona 2 (Pedri 82, Torres 90+4) bt Cadiz 0; Girona 3 (Herrera 12, Stuani 55, 65) bt Getafe 0; Osasuna 0 lost to Athletic Club 2 (Inaki 11, Guruzeta 20). **Serie A:** Lecce 2 (Almqvist 8, Francesco 87) bt Lazio 1 (Immobile 26); Udinese 0 lost to Juventus 3 (Chiesa 2, Vlahovic 20-pen, Rabiot 45+ 3); Roma 2 (Belotti 17, 82) drew with Salernitana 2 (Candreva 36, 49) **Bundesliga:** Frankfurt 1 (Kolo 40) bt Darmstadt 98 0. **Premier League:** West Ham 3 (Aguerd 7, Antonio 53, Lucas Paqueta 90+5-pen) bt Chelsea 1 (Chukwuemeka 28).

Making an impact: Pedri's opening goal gave Barcelona the late impetus. GETTY IMAGES

Thumping win for Indian juniors

DUSSELDORF: The Indian junior men's hockey team scored a 4-0 victory over England in the four-Nations tournament here on Monday. Rajinder Singh (13th), Amir Ali (33th), Amandeep Lakra (41st) and Araijeet Singh Hundal (58th) were the scorers for India.

Sift Kaur bags Olympic quota place

BAKU: Sift Kaur Samra placed fifth but won the Olympic quota in women's 50m rifle 3-position in the World Championship in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday.

Coming after the efforts of Mehuli Ghosh and Akhil Sheoran, it was another emphatic statement from the Indian camp about the strength of the rifle shooters.